

Labour's left in play to abolish Lords

Proposal to achieve the necessary majority to the House of Lords by packing it with Party supporters is disclosed in a partial draft election manifesto of the national executive. It also proposes a for an almost dole-free society and the abolition of a 35-hour working week.

Leadership to resist NEC proposals

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Viktor Korchnoi whose presence has ensured the absence of any Soviet Union competitors.

Peak time at chess congress

By Alan Hamilton

The highest megawattage of grandmasters assembled in Britain for more than 40 years was switched on with an almost audible hum of brain cells yesterday for the opening of the Phillips and Drew Kings International chess tournament at County Hall, London.

Israelis send more troops across Lebanese border

From Christopher Walker

Amid growing international protests, the Israeli army has sent more troops across the Lebanese border today in readiness for what appeared to be a long stay. By tonight the number of heavily armed Israeli troops based several miles across the border was reported to have increased to about 350.

Mr Carter chides his allies as EEC delays action on Iran

By Our Foreign Staff

Friends and allies of the United States in Europe are still shuffling their feet uncomfortably in response to American requests for cooperation in action over Iran. They want to show solidarity, but they have been reckoning the cost of sanctions and doubt that they would be effective.

The night of bright lights over Britain

By Ronald Kershaw

Nocturnal dog walkers, sober and responsible air traffic controllers and normally coherent citizens of good standing leapt to their telephones in the early hours of yesterday to seek advice and ask for an explanation of trails of fire, flashing lights and incandescent glows which filled the night sky.

EEC summit date fixed but delays likely in settling British claim

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, April 10. The postponed EEC summit meeting, which was to have been held last week with Mrs Margaret Thatcher's claim for a vote on the Community's budget at the top of the agenda, will now take place on April 27 and 28 in Luxembourg.

Banking control

Figures for the four weeks to

Figures for the four weeks to signs that bank lending is slowing money supply is coming under pressure to the private sector are down when the figure is seasonally likely to show a rise but it should in February. This was the first the Government's new monetary broad-based measure for monetary

Offer of asylum for some Cuban refugees

Some of the 10,000 Cubans at the Peruvian Embassy in Havana have been offered asylum in the five Andean Pact countries and Spain. Peru said after an emergency meeting of the pact that it would accept 1,000 refugees, but it is not known how many the other countries will take.

Murdoch loan inquiry

United States Senate banking committee

United States Senate banking committee investigators are inquiring into a low-interest loan given to Mr Rupert Murdoch, the Australian publisher. Press reports have suggested a link between its exceptionally low interest rate and support for President Carter's reelection expressed by Mr Murdoch's New York Post.

Dr Kung keeps chair

Professor Hans Küng, the theologian barred by

Professor Hans Küng, the theologian barred by the Vatican from teaching Catholic theology, will retain his chair at Tübingen University. It will be detached, however, from the Catholic theological faculty and placed directly under the authority of the university senate. Dr Küng said he found the solution "acceptable and very honourable on the part of the university".

Seamen back action day

The National Union of Seamen recommended

The National Union of Seamen recommended its 33,000 members not to work on May 14, the TUC's day of action against government policies. As other unions signified their support, Mr Len Murray, general secretary, said: "If we cannot get a proper hearing in Downing Street, we have to speak out in Trafalgar Square".

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Foreign Office denies apology to Saudis over Princess's execution film

By David Watts

The Foreign Office was trying last night to cool the controversy over the TV film, *Death of a Princess*, which depicted the public execution of a Saudi princess accused of adultery with a commoner.

Accord on steps to reopen Gibraltar border

Lisbon, April 10.—Britain

Lisbon, April 10.—Britain and Spain have agreed on the first steps to reopen the land frontier of Gibraltar, closed by Spain in 1969.

Investing in property overseas means more and more time spending abroad

That's why we've

That's why we've set up a network of offices in 33 offices in 33 countries.

Investing in property overseas means more and more time spending abroad

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4, 6	Arts	10	Diary	14	Motoring	26	TV & Radio	27
6	Business	12-24	Engagements	17	Obituary	27	Theatre, etc	10, 11
7, 8	Chess	17	Engagements	17	Obituary	27	25 Years Ago	17
7, 8	Court	17	Law Report	17	Obituary	27	Weather	2
17	Crossword	26	Letters	15, 20	Sport	11, 12	Wills	17

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"It took a very special car to lure me back to motor racing after 18 years."



The car Stirling Moss is pictured with is his own perfectly standard Audi 80 GLE.

Naturally, it is a fast car. 0-60 mph takes just 9.2 seconds. Top speed is a highly creditable 113 mph.

Yet as Stirling has discovered, sheer performance is by no means its only attribute.

"This is not only a fast car, but a safe car. Roadholding and stability at speed are faultless."

Stirling looks also for both comfort and economy in his personal saloon, of course.

In his own words, the 80 GLE is "very luxurious and very quiet. And surprisingly economical for such a powerful car."

The Audi 80 he'll be driving in the Tricentrol British Saloon Car Championship is a specially prepared version, as you'd expect.

The performance has been boosted.

The suspension modified. The luxurious appointments have made way for more functional equipment.

But as Stirling pointed out: "Even in standard form, the 80 clearly has all the makings of a race winner."

If you'd like to try the Audi 80 GLE (or indeed our LS or GLS version), your local Audi dealer will gladly offer you a test drive.

Stirling said at the beginning that this is "a very special car."

We have every confidence that you'll agree.

The new Audi 80.

Audi The car for now.

HOME NEWS

Ministers advised to review cut in funds to help jobless blacks

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Ministers are being asked to reconsider cuts in aid to potentially explosive deprived areas, where a link is seen between unemployment and crime and extremist organizations are waiting to take advantage.

The Commission for Racial Equality wrote in October to Mr. James Prior, Secretary of State for Employment, saying: "We are seriously concerned that the withdrawal of special temporary employment funds (Step) from several areas of high black population will have a severe effect on employment and training opportunities for young people."

The programme was to have filled 30,000-35,000 places by March 31 all over Britain. The revised programme will aim at maintaining a level of 12,000-14,000 places, concentrated in the areas of greatest need.

Bristol, scene of arson, looting and violence last week, is one of the places where the cutting of the funds affects projects seen as crucial to the black unemployed.

In Bristol a survey by the Department of Employment in 1978 showed that among the registered unemployed black and Asian males more than two thirds were unskilled, a third had been unemployed for more than 12 months and 37 per cent were aged 20-30, precisely the people Step was designed to aid.

Yet money for 13 youth helpers in Bristol to help young people to get jobs was withdrawn. The funds for a resource centre created to assist the unemployed to find work have been axed.

Other places facing cuts include Kensington and Chelsea, in London, already the scene of riots. Last year the Government cut Step funds nationally from £84.6m to £42.4m.

But the Manpower Services Commission plans to increase the Youth Opportunities Programme by a third in the south-west region this year.

Under the programme young people unable to find a job are given work experience either with employers or on projects in posts financed by the commission.

Nationally there are plans to increase such posts from more than 200,000 to 250,000-350,000 this year for those aged 16 to 18.

In London alarm at a possible

repetition of Bristol-type riots has been expressed to Mr. William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, by an organization representing 31 black and Asian councillors, the Standing Conference of Afro-Caribbean and Asian Councillors.

Mr. Russell Profit, its Guyanese-born secretary, has written to Mr. Whitelaw: "Violent and horrific outbreaks such as that recently seen in Bristol are dangerously close."

The councillors are urgently seeking a meeting with Mr. Whitelaw. Their demands include no cuts in the urban programme, Lewisham Borough Council, in London, for example, is fighting against the axing of funds for 17 schemes.

But aid worth £23,000 in capital costs and almost £100,000 in running costs is being given to Lewisham, the Department of the Environment reported yesterday.

It announced that in England about 270 projects had been approved.

Urban aid had been approved on new schemes worth £7.8m in town and cities with special social needs.

The lessons of Bristol is that places not nationally known for their racial tension, unlike Brixton, Notting Hill or Handsworth, in Birmingham, may be vulnerable to trouble if the ingredients are explosive.

Unemployment is one of them. Black school-leavers interviewed in Lewisham for a study by the Commission for Racial Equality were three times as likely as their white counterparts to be unemployed.

The Home Office Research Unit has reported that five studies disclosed high unemployment among detected offenders. The rate of unemployment among young blacks is particularly high.

Extremists anxious to make political capital out of it are moving in, thereby making for more serious alienation among young blacks by portraying the police as the most visible instrument of state repression of the black minority in Britain today.

Those are the words of the latest *Socialist Challenge*, which has front-page banner headlines saying: "One year after Southall defeat black people win in Bristol." Inside it refers to the riot as "Carnival of the oppressed."

Letters, page 15

Boys made petrol bombs for use in Bristol clash

From Our Correspondent
Bristol

A gang of teenagers made seven Molotov cocktails using milk bottles, petrol and strips of cloth, and hid them under a hedge for use in a riot against the police, it was alleged at Bristol Juvenile Court yesterday.

The cache was discovered by a housewife who told the police before the bombs could be put into use. It was added: "Three boys, aged 13, 14 and 15, were accused of making the bombs during riots in the Southmead district of Bristol last week."

Inspector Philip Vester, for the prosecution, said several policemen were injured by flying missiles and shops were looted as 150 youths ran amok through a shopping centre. He added: "We received information that more trouble was expected, and there was a suggestion that petrol bombs would be used."

One of the boys said in an alleged statement that they had been to the riots and thought it would be a good crack to make some petrol bombs.

He had added: "We got some bottles and filled them with petrol, then pushed cloths into the top. We tested one out in the park, but it did not explode, so we kicked it around until it caught fire."

"One of my mates' shoes caught in the fire when he kicked it. We hid the rest under the hedge. I was not going to throw them, but we knew someone who would."

The three, who all admitted the offence, were remanded in the care of the youth social services while reports are prepared.

A fourth boy, aged 16, who denied being involved, was also remanded to a later date.

Local government elections: The turn of Conservatives to feel the sting of unpopularity

Big recovery by Labour expected in Scottish polling

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

Some Scottish local councils will be returned to their traditional political fold in the district elections on May 1. Three years ago, when elections were last held for this second tier of local government, the Labour Party was deeply unpopular and the Scottish National Party had yet to begin its spectacular decline.

It is unlikely that the nationalists will improve on the present subdued showing alongside the Liberals and it is the Conservatives' turn to feel the sting of unpopularity.

Labour alone can seriously relish this first real test of public opinion since the election, particularly when any healing of the Government's medicine have yet to be felt. Only the bitter taste is being experienced at present in Scotland.

The Scottish Council of the Labour Party has named 19 districts it is preparing to add to the six the party already controls. Such buoyant expectations are supported by the latest opinion poll on voting intentions.

Taken in March by System Three, it placed Labour unassailably ahead in its traditional position of popularity north of the border. The party was chosen by 49 per cent of the sample. Conservatives by 27 per cent, with the Scottish National Party and Liberals trailing at 14 and 10 per cent respectively.

Mr. James Allison, Scottish organizer of the Labour Party, admitted that Labour had been humiliated in the last district elections. The party had lost 131 seats and surely had struck the bedrock of its support.

Labour is now in a position to pull back its normal strength and add an extra weight of votes from the Government's unpopularity and the collapse of the nationalists.

Most people took the opportunity at local elections to show their feelings about the government of the day, Mr. Allison said, and the current Tory Government was an embarrassment to the Conservative Party in Scotland. With inflation running at 20 per cent, Scottish unemployment above 200,000 and public expenditure cuts affecting Scotland particularly badly the Conservatives could hardly be helped.

There are some 1,120 district seats to be contested. The Tories and some rural areas have a tradition of having non-political local elections, leaving about 800 seats that will be contested by political parties. Some will have new local government

boundaries, notably Edinburgh, Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire, but about four fifths of Scottish districts will be contested on the same boundaries.

Edinburgh district will be an interesting contest in which the new boundaries are thought likely to swing the balance to Labour. The Tories hold Edinburgh at present, but the city is one of Labour's most confident hopes.

The Conservatives expect to field more than the 543 candidates who contested the last district elections. Party workers accept that some losses are inevitable, but there are issues that could swing votes their way, particularly the level of rates set by some Labour councils.

The action of certain local authorities in refusing to trim public spending to the Government's guidelines and pushing through heavy rate increases, the Tories feel, could rebound on the Labour Party.

"Rates will be crucial in this election," a Tory official said. In Edinburgh the Labour-controlled regional rate has risen by 41.5 per cent while the Conservative district is holding its level to 18 per cent in line with inflation.

The party also believes that housing is an issue that will win it support in the 25 councils where the housing authority has so far refused to introduce a scheme allowing council tenants to buy their homes.

The elections may resolve the political limbo that has bedevilled Glasgow for three years during which the city has belonged to no one political party. The last election introduced a strong contingent of nationalists, and the conduct of business has ranged from French farce to the present working compromise.

The unpopularity of Labour and a housing scandal at the time of the last elections have both dimmed in the public memory and Labour expects to move back into power.

The Scottish National Party is not sanguine about its hopes. Last time the party did extremely well, holding power in several central Scottish councils and a total of 170 seats throughout Scotland.

By-elections since then have brought a net loss to the party of about a dozen seats and with its poor standing in the polls and general apathy towards its independence policies, it is lying low.

The old wrangle remains about whether the nationalist party should seriously concern itself with local government when its main argument is with Westminster, but the past three years has surely shown that no serious political party can stay aloof from the local malstrom.

In some districts the party intends sharply to increase its number of candidates, particularly in Kyle and Carrick, where nationalists have become closely associated with the campaign against nuclear waste dumping.

But after the crushing election defeat that removed nine nationalist MPs and 300,000 of their votes, the party can only hope that in those districts where nationalists have become a good and conscientious job they will be elected.

Scottish Liberals believe there is a chance of an open field at the elections. The voters, they argue, were not drawn towards the Tories and the Government's record. They were unimpressed by the Labour Party and its internal squabbles.

There will be about 200 Liberal candidates, and the party is confident of holding power in Inverclyde, where it has 13 of the 23 seats, and of continuing to hold the balance in Aberdeen. A party official declared: "Our strength will be as an alternative to the two main parties, which people can see straggling everything up."

Huge waves sank Scots trawler

Two huge waves caused a £200,000 Scottish trawler to sink off the Cornish coast with the loss of three lives, Mr. Derrick Pepperell, the West Cornwall Coroner, was told at Penzance yesterday.

All three men came from Buckle, on the Moray Firth, and the accident brought the death toll of fishermen from the Scottish port to 16 within seven months.

Mr. Pepperell attributed the disaster to a "not a particularly combination of circumstances". The trawler, the Bounteous, sank in 100 feet of water in relatively calm seas less than a mile off Mousehole, Cornwall, on January 4.

The jury returned verdicts of accidental death on Mr. Edward Phinister, aged 30, the skipper; Mr. Russell Hillier, aged 25, the cook; and Mr. Joseph Bowie, aged 26, a deck-hand. There were three survivors.

Mr. Pepperell said that what two of the survivors described as freak waves had struck at just the wrong moment for the Bounteous. One arrived just as a load of freshly caught mackerel was hanging from the starboard side, about to be landed on deck.

The giant wave appeared to have washed away fish boxes on deck. He added: "While the crew were trying to clear the boxes, another freak wave seems to have arrived."

"Again the water appears to have failed to run away, possibly because the scuppers were jammed. The combination of the water lying there and the net being suspended in the reason given by the witnesses for the ship capsizing. None has been able to offer any other explanation."

Search for ruins

A team from Lancaster University is excavating in Cockermouth, the birthplace of William and Dorothy Wordsworth, searching for medieval ruins.

Shortage of chemists for industry

From Pearce Wright
Science Editor
Durham

Too few scientists are being trained in universities to cope with the expansion of work on occupational safety and on the toxicological testing of new chemical compounds for industry, according to a survey presented at the annual congress of the Chemical Society yesterday.

One reason is that most universities are not adequately staffed for teaching analytical chemistry. But the compilers of the report, Dr. E. G. J. Wiling and Mr. W. J. Marmion, of the Chemical and Allied Products Industry Training Board, say that they were unable to discover precise figures for scientists either from employers or from official statistics.

Although the general pattern of employment for scientists was known, there was insufficient information about the various kinds of work.

The industry faced a 2 per cent drop in output; the price of its main raw material had trebled over the past four years and further increases were expected. Business was becoming more complex and that put a premium on the ability to solve problems and make difficult decisions.

The combined effect of those trends would be to reduce the manpower resources available to the chemical industry by as much as 20 per cent. More graduates would be needed to offset that loss.

New radio chain 'a landmark in broadcasting'

From Kenneth Gosling
Cardiff

A new independent radio service with fresh techniques for strengthening links with the community is to open in Cardiff today after a launching ceremony at Cardiff Castle last night.

Speaking at the ceremony, Lady Plowden, chairman of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, and members of the public, through membership of the Cardiff Broadcasting Trust or involvement in a programme workshop, could play a part in helping to shape the new service.

Independent local radio had been at the forefront of the change in broadcasting from being a means of distribution to a means of communication.

"Now," Lady Plowden said, "Cardiff Broadcasting has taken a bold step further in establishing a new radio company structure which may prove years from now, to be a significant landmark."

Of nine new companies to follow Cardiff, that for Inverness had similar organization plans; and the IBA had approval to bring independent local radio to 16 other areas.

When complete, probably by about 1983, the total number of stations would be 44, leaving about a quarter of the United Kingdom population unserved.

Prince of Wales backing for technology group

By Roger Berthoud

The Prince of Wales has embraced the cause of intermediate or "appropriate" technology, to the extent of becoming patron for the next five years of the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG), it was announced yesterday.

The group was founded in 1965 by the late E. F. Schumacher, author of *Small Is Beautiful* and *Simple Economics*, as *People's Movement*. It has become well known abroad for its work in developing and helping to install cheap, small-scale, employment-generating (rather than employment-reducing) technologies in developing countries.

Latterly it has also been directly involved in fostering work-creating projects in Britain.

Both the Duke of Edinburgh and the late Lord Mountbatten of Burma became known for their long-standing interest in high technology. Growing royal interest in less capital-intensive technologies led to a visit to Buckingham Palace by Mr. Schumacher in 1973, shortly after the publication of his seminal book, during which he elaborated on some of his theories.

The Duke of Edinburgh has since made reference to those from time to time.

Last year the ITDG learnt that the Prince of Wales might be responsive to an invitation to see some of its development work at first hand, and last February 15 he visited the group's unit at the applied research section of Reading University.

It would be too crude to suggest that he will be "selling" the virtues of appropriate technology when he visits developing countries. But he will at least be in a position to allude to the benefits of creating cheap, small-scale, employment-generating activities that can be widely introduced by and within local communities.

The prince's interest in appropriate technology is no doubt in part a by-product of his policy of getting to know British industry through a programme orchestrated by the National Economic Development Council. To help to counter the industry's evident failure to maintain, let alone create, employment, the ITDG has been fostering Local Enterprise Trusts.

There are now 16 of those trusts, which foster the growth of small enterprises in their neighbourhoods, and a further 45 are under discussion by local organizations.

A new focus for such initiatives will be provided by the establishment in London of a Schumacher Centre for Technology Choice, for which an appeal for £1m was recently launched.

A Rome outside the textbooks

From Phillip Howard
Hull

Life is untidier on the ground than in the text. In a stimulating paper to the meeting of the Classical Association at Hull yesterday Dr. Andrew Lintott, of Aberdeen University, examined what Roman imperialism meant on the ground behind the high-minded and legalistic jargon of power, politics.

Imperialism was the power the Romans exercised over peoples, whom they generally called their allies, in space they equated their empire, from the time of Polybius, with the known world. Dr. Lintott's argument is that the well known textbook categories into which that world was divided politically are not as simple or elegant as they seemed to us at school.

A province, after originally meaning an appointment, came to designate a tract of allied territory directly administered

by Rome. But that territory was often not strictly defined, while the governor's powers were expected to extend into neighbouring kingdoms and the land of other free peoples. He was also allowed considerable scope in dealing with neighbouring barbarians.

Client kings should not be used as clients in the technical sense. Theoretically they were friends and allies. In practice, from early in the second century they were treated as agents and subordinates.

The status of "free cities" was modelled on that of cities that had been declared free by the Hellenistic powers while remaining their vassals. Their freedom was conditional on remaining loyal within the Roman orbit in time the privileges that regularly accompanied freedom became eroded, so only a few enjoyed freedom from tribute. Their freedom was of the Czechoslovakian or Afghan sort.

The natural state of that empire was taken by the Romans to be steady expansion. And external frontiers were left vague. Hadrian and his successors limited expansion.

Like later super powers, Rome still tried to exercise power over the peoples beyond them. Meanwhile the status of the peoples within the Empire was gradually assimilated, as it usually is. From the Roman (and the Russian) point of view, that is not an extension of power, merely an administrative reorganization.

Dr. John Landels, of Reading University, opened our ears to the arcane mysteries and siren sounds of ancient Greek music: the aulos, the double reed pipe that sounded half way between a clarinet and an Aeolian, the cithara, something like a guitar, and the singing. He is the next best thing to Orpheus that we have left walking our discordant and muddy world.

Levy bc proposa 'could courses

By John Young

Controversial p the redistribution support for racing trained in a repo yesterday.

The proposals of a condemnation Committee of the Association of Racecourses, who racecourses would be subsidized at the smaller times, may would be a danger.

The report by board and Jockeys' Committee, under S. Plummer, suggests selective approach of the racecourses to the allocation of prize money.

It recommends 60 racecourses to be graded into three. Only 12 in Category 1 would be eligible for capital assistance. Courses should be encouraged to improve their facilities, including security services.

The report does the clear of an arbitrary reduction of number of horses. But unless a big maintained at it will be a steady increase, it says.

Levy has used not merely protection for against insolvency of racing depend operating efficient racing responsibility success or failure.

Air Commodore yesterday that it talk of smaller able to improve to attract special stricting them a profitable midweek.

The board has those courses to ally unprofitable was now using them and place lowest category.

Leading a Racing's res cause

Armed ga escapes are p with £80,000 there Out of

From Our Correspondent
Glasgow

Strathclyde was called to help detect armed gang had in office van and £80,000 in the G. of Glasgow.

The driver an, were in round the back of the A few hours a broke into a sub-Moodiesburn will eastern outskirts hauled out the sal vehicle. It is contained at least

Shampoo for Ching Ching, the female giant panda in London Zoo's animal hospital, who was new on her way to recovery. Ching Ching, who underwent an emergency operation almost two weeks ago, is still very anaemic and her protein level is low, but she is eating well and putting on weight.

PUBLIC AUCTION at SHORT NOTICE
AIRFREIGHT WAREHOUSE HEATHROW AIRPORT
Balance of a late Arrival Contracted Order
HIGH QUALITY VALUABLE PERSIAN AND AFGHAN CARPETS AND FINE HANDMADE RUGS
OTHER ORIGINS
Ordered in 1979 for contracted delivery November through Brokers for London Importers Seasonal Due to internal strife in Iran and intermittent Teheran Customs the sales of Persian rugs could not be completed and were finally sold in Amsterdam to join other sales for transshipment to the UK
AUCTION at the WAREHOUSE of AIRFREIGHT LEP AIR LTD.
Northumberland Close, Stanwell, Staines, Middx (Turn off Great West Road (A30) into Stanwell Road) Northumberland Close is situated off Stanwell Road
Auction Five Bales - Piece by Piece
SUNDAY, 13th APRIL, 11.00 a.m. VIEW 10.00
TERMS: CASH OR CERTIFIED CHEQUES
Douglas Jackson, Hammond & Co., Auctioneers

WE, THE LIMBLESS, LOOK TO YOU FOR HELP
We come from both sides of the world. We are from Kenya, Sudan, Cyprus, and from From keeping the peace than from war we limble you for help.
And you can help. By our Association, BLESSED British Limbless, after a limble from all the Service. It helps, with advice and encouragement, to overcome shock of losing arms, or eye. It sees that red-need stand in the way of the new life. It provides Resid Homes where they can live peace and dignity.
Help BLESMA, please need money desperately, promise you, not a penny be wasted.

British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association
"GIVE TO THOSE WHO GAVE - PLEASE"

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Travel Service

How much longer before we in Britain join the 3rd World?

Fifteen years ago, Britain was a leading producer of motor cars, motor cycles, domestic appliances, televisions, radios, hi-fi's.

Manufacture of many of these has slowed to a trickle. And in some cases has topped altogether.

Czechoslovakia and Spain have now overtaken us in production per head.

Why are we falling behind?

Because heavily automated businesses overseas are producing better value products.

But there is something that can

be done. Out of Britain's top 5 profit makers, 22

are already using IBM as their primary source for automated business systems.

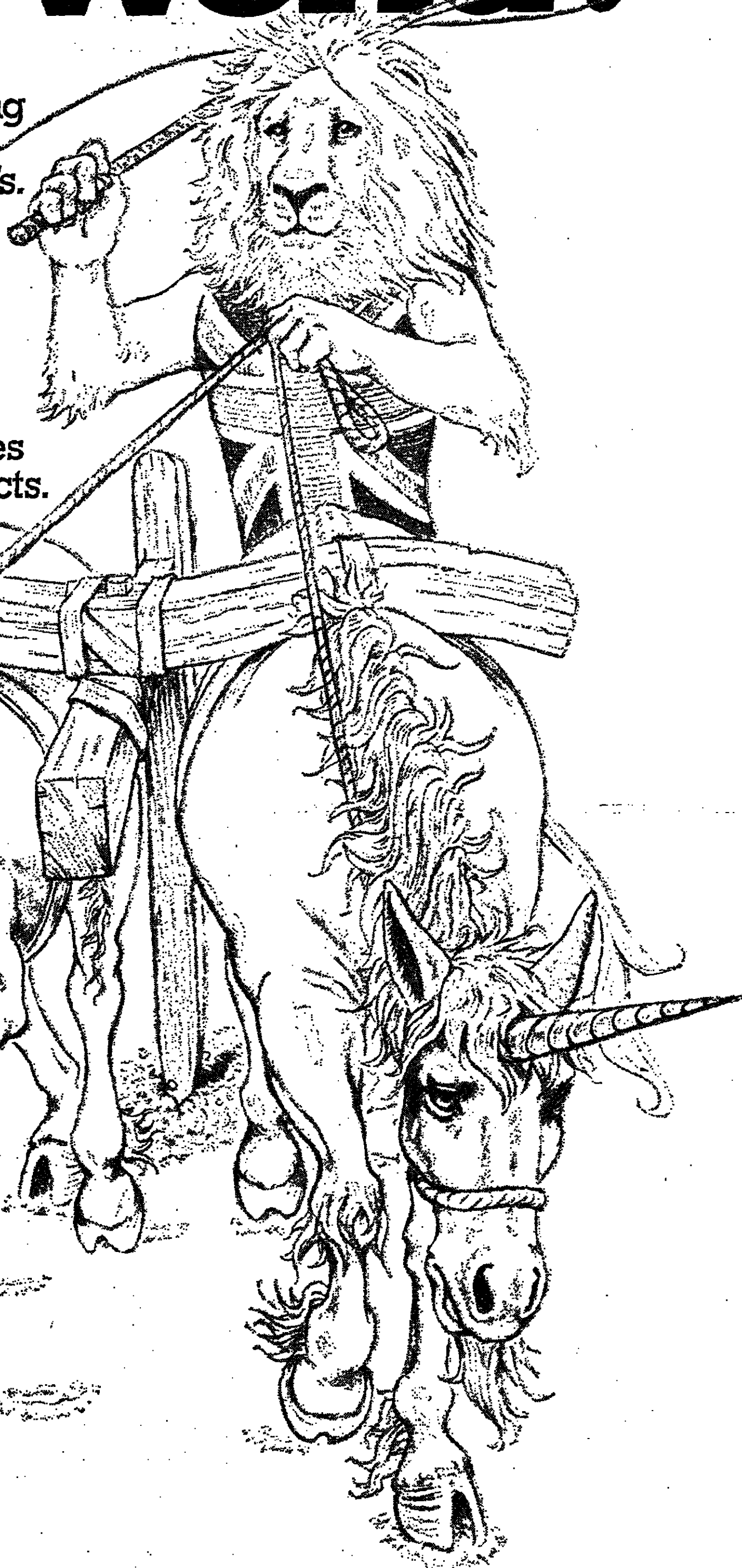
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HOME NEWS

Land Bill 'a threat to allotments system'

By a Staff Reporter

Demonstrators carrying placards and waving garden implements visited the Department of the Environment in London yesterday to urge the Government to drop provisions in a Bill which they say threatens the allotment system.

Members of the Friends of the Earth and the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners handed a letter to Mr Marcus Fox, Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, addressed to Mr Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State.

It informed him that gardeners were concerned about the poor level of provision for allotments, which were threatened by the removal of safeguards on the sale of allotment land.

The Friends of the Earth said that the allotment system would be dismantled by a change in the law proposed in the Local Government, Planning and Land (No 2) Bill.

They fear that the removal of Government supervision over the sale of land would enable local authorities to sell allotment land.

They have told Mr Heseltine that there are 121,000 people on waiting lists who could not get allotments because local authorities were not fulfilling their legal duty to provide sufficient to satisfy demand.

The letter stated: "Yet the Bill contains six clauses which would allow local authorities to fall even more abysmally in the provision of allotments."

"Those clauses would enable local authorities to spend allotment funds on other services and make up their own rules, including rents, for allotment holders."

The letter, signed by Mr Czech Conroy, campaign director of the Friends of the Earth, urged the minister to drop those clauses and replace them with new ones tabled in the Commons by Mr Stephen Ross, Liberal MP for the Isle of Wight.

They include proposals requiring the Secretary of State to instruct local authorities to grant temporary allotment licences on vacant land, and the extension of the basic duty to provide allotments to inner London boroughs.

The minister was also asked to improve the Smallholdings and Allotments Act, 1908.



A Friends of the Earth supporter demonstrating yesterday with bucket, spade and cauliflower.

Backbench MPs are being urged by the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners to oppose the repeal of the requirement which that Act places on local authorities to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State to the use for

other purposes of any funds surplus to allotment requirements.

Mr Fox, after meeting the demonstrators, said that no Government would deliberately seek to do away with allotments. "I am horrified at the suggestion," he said.

Mr Haughey remains enigmatic on Ulster

From Christopher Thomas Belfast

The Irish Government's enigmatic stance towards Northern Ireland remains, Mr Charles Haughey, the Prime Minister, demonstrated in the first significant interview given by him since he assumed the leadership in December.

He told the Irish Times that he has hopes of a united Ireland in his lifetime, but cut short any detailed explanation of his strategy. "For the moment I do not wish to say any more about these matters."

Mr Haughey said he believed there had been a considerable change in outlook and attitudes recently, particularly in the north of Ireland. "What is needed is a coherent, mature political approach and an abundance of patience, understanding and generosity all round."

He was anxious to meet northern politicians and leaders of opinion as often as possible. He would like them to think his door was always open.

He would be meeting Mrs Margaret Thatcher at the next conference of leaders of the European Economic Community but he thought it would not be possible to discuss the northern situation in any substantive way on that occasion. He hoped it would not be too long before there could be a full meeting.

He alluded to the imminent talks in Dublin between Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Mr Brian Lenihan, the Irish Foreign Minister. The talks are secret for security reasons.

Mr Haughey's interview was dominated by the economy, pay and industrial relations. The Government would work hard for a new national understanding in the pay this year. He was not looking for a wage freeze.

"We will very shortly be starting a serious detailed process of discussion with the social partners about the economy, the conditions prevailing, and the form that a new national understanding might take."

It would be ideal if the farmers could be included.

'Possible' that Mr Kelly broke jaw in a fall

From David Nicholson-Lord Liverpool

It was "unlikely, but not impossible" that James Kelly, the Merseyside man who died in police custody last year, received a double fracture of the jaw by hitting his chin on the ground, it was stated at the inquest on Mr Kelly yesterday.

Mr Henry Aley, consultant dental surgeon at Broadgreen Hospital, Liverpool, said the degree of force necessary to cause the fracture could have been caused by a hard punch or blow. The injury would not have markedly affected Mr Kelly's ability to speak fairly normally.

He said that evidence of an old fracture to Mr Kelly's jaw was immaterial and irrelevant to the fracture he suffered shortly before his death.

The inquest started two and a half hours late after it was disclosed by a doctor that Mr Kelly underwent an operation for a bilateral jaw fracture suffered when he was hit in the face with a piece of wood during a fight in 1968.

The officers who arrested Mr Kelly, aged 53, of Huyton, Liverpool, have denied knowledge of how the fracture occurred shortly before his death.

Earlier Mr Bernard Sims, a dental expert and adviser to the Home Office, said that when he examined Mr Kelly's jaw he found fractures of both the left and right sides consistent with having been produced by "a single blow by or against an object or hard surface".

He agreed with Mr George Carman, QC, for the Police Federation and four individual officers, that the fracture could have been caused by a drunken man in a heavy stupor falling on the ground.

Mr Carman said: "If Mr Kelly had a fight at 11.30 or fell in a drunken state, he could well have been fighting with the police at 12.15."

Mr Sims replied: "Yes". The coroner also heard details of a medical report on Mr Kelly written on his discharge from the Army in 1947. That described him as mentally deficient, illiterate, backward and suffering from anxiety.

His illiteracy had cut him off from home, and that caused him worry and depression. Though cooperative, he controlled his aggressive feelings with difficulty.

In brief

Rugby player on harm charge

Gordon Doble, aged 30, captain of Wolverhampton Rugby Club, faced magistrates at St Leonards, Staffordshire, yesterday accused of causing grievous bodily harm to an opposing player, Anthony Higley, aged 23, who lost an eye.

Mr Doble, of Pendeford Avenue, Wolverhampton, was remanded on bail for three weeks. The offence is alleged to have taken place during the match between Wolverhampton and Stourbridge last December.

Baby survives fatal motor accident

Michael Walker, aged six months, escaped with head injuries yesterday when he was thrown out of a car when it crashed into a lamp standard at Hucknall, Nottinghamshire, killing the driver and injuring the baby's mother.

The baby bounced on the hard road surface. The driver was Mr Neil Marsh, aged 19, of Stanton Hill, Nottinghamshire.

Tree kills man

Mr Donald Drewery, aged 44, of Westholme Cottages, Melton Ross, South Humberside, a farm worker, died yesterday when a tree he was helping to fell caught fire and crashed down on him.

Lassa fever ruled out

Porton Down scientists yesterday ruled out Lassa fever as the cause of death of Miss Eva Oberholzer, aged 40, who died three weeks ago after a holiday in Kenya.

Meningitis death

Lesley Ann Rothwell, aged 13, of Waltham, near Grimsby, has died of meningitis, but Humberside health authorities said yesterday that there was no cause for alarm. She was taken ill at York.

10 hurt in blast

Ten people were given hospital treatment, one being detained, after they were struck by flying glass when an explosion damaged the front of a bakery in the market place at Ripon, North Yorkshire, yesterday.

Immigration officer is criticized by magistrate

Mr Kenneth Harrington, a London magistrate, yesterday criticized the immigration authorities for banning an accused American visitor from Britain before his guilt was established by the courts.

Mr Harrington, sitting at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, Westminster, said: "It seems to me quite disgraceful. We do not live in a state, surely, where the immigration authorities can use their powers before a case has been proved."

He said to Mr James Douglas, the immigration officer who saw the American after he was alleged to have been caught trying to import a dog illegally:

"You put yourself in the position of judge and jury. It appears to me utterly and completely wrong. He cannot even appeal. I am not condoning what he did, but you have taken action before it had been proved."

Mr Harrington had before him John Haigh, aged 28, who was born in New York and is in England to visit his parents at Treemill Drive, Maidenhead, Berkshire.

Mr Haigh was fined £275 after he admitted taking his Dachshund bitch to Victoria station on Wednesday, contrary to the rabies regulations, and failing to label his holdall to indicate that it contained a live animal.

WEST EUROPE

Catalan Parliament sits for first time in 41 years while separatists demonstrate outside

From Hry Debellus Barcelona, April 10

Members of the new Catalan Parliament sat for the first time in 41 years here today at a nostalgic session which ignored secessionists shouting outside.

Salvador Tarradellas, the outgoing president of the Generalitat, the Catalan Government, made a veiled comparison with Spain's other newly-autonomous regions, the Basque country, then he congratulated "all the men and women . . . who made it possible to recover the freedom of Catalonia without violence."

He said members of the regional Parliament have "an enormous responsibility . . . not to divide the country."

Outside the marble halls where previous Catalan parliaments had sat in the 1930s before being disbanded by a victory for General Franco, a few hundred demonstrators shouted for the release of imprisoned suspected extremists.

They carried red banners and the flag of the advocates of

independence—a flag with red and yellow horizontal stripes like the regular flag of the region, but with the addition of a star in a triangle.

The separatists had no voice inside, however. Their cause failed to win representation in the elections of March 20. There were dissident voices raised in the chamber, nevertheless, but for other reasons.

The Andalusian Socialist Party made itself known although only two of the 135 MPs belong to that party. Señor José Acosta Sánchez, momentarily delayed a routine vote on the acceptance of the organizational rules for the Assembly with a protest that his party had not been consulted when the rules were drawn up.

Presiding over the inaugural session by reason of his age was Señor José María Pòblot, who is 81. He declared the Andalusian deputy to be in order. He also called for a minute's silence for the "martyred president" of the Generalitat, Lluís Companys, who was executed by the late General Franco.

In a meeting prior to the inaugural session, spokesmen for the various parties gave their unanimous, although informal, approval to a proposal by the Generalitat to ask King Juan Carlos to attend the investiture of the new president of the Generalitat, which is expected to take place in Barcelona before the end of this month.

After an afternoon recess, the Parliament met again this evening to choose the president of the Chamber and two vice-presidents. The presidency—a largely honorary post—was expected to be assumed by Señor Herbert Barrera, secretary-general of the Republican Left of Catalonia, a minority party, as a result of a pact with Señor Jordi Pujol's dominant Convergence and Union Party.

At another session later this month, the Parliament is expected to elect Señor Pujol as president of the Generalitat. His party has 43 seats, more than any other party, and he will be able to muster a majority with the promised cooperation of the Republican Left and the Centre Democratic Union.

28 terrorist suspects held in Italy

From Our Own Correspondent Rome, April 10

Hundreds of carabinieri carried by a series of operations only today against suspected terrorists and their supporters in four cities in northern Italy.

Some 28 people were arrested, including, it is thought, persons believed to be intellectual apologists of the theory of armed struggle. About 10 people were arrested in Turin and seven in Biella with the rest in Milan and Ferrara.

Laboratory raid: Police sources said that all those arrested were charged with subversive activities and belonging to armed groups.

In Milan, the police raided a laboratory and seized equipment and tapes used for broadcasting messages of the Red Brigades terrorist organization, the sources said.

In Turin, a private security guard was shot dead today on his way to work. Signor Giuseppe Piscinetti, aged 30, had just left his home when a bullet fired up alongside him.

Two men got out and fired several pistol shots, hitting him in the neck.

The police said that first inquiries indicated the killing might have been a vendetta rather than an attack of a political nature.

Later little-known extremist group, killing itself "Proletarian Parols", claimed responsibility. —Reuter.

Jail for flinging stowaway over ship's side

Rotterdam, April 10.—A Dutch sea captain was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison today for ordering the crew to throw a Nigerian stowaway overboard.

The public prosecutor told the court that Captain Theodore de Bondt of the Dutch refrigerator ship Imvamy gave the order for the stowaway to be dumped over the side last October into Nigerian waters after the ship had loaded cargo of fish at Port Harcourt.

The court sentenced the ship's navigating officer to two years in prison and two seamen were each jailed for four months for throwing the man overboard. —Reuter.

Siemens gets ultimatum from city council

From St Masterman Vienna, April 10

Vienna's city council has delivered an ultimatum to Siemens, the electronics giant, demanding that the firm take action before noon tomorrow against the Austrian weekly magazine known as *Proletarian Parols* for its future contracts with the city.

The magazine has accused Siemens of paying an 18m schilling (£700,000) bribe to one of three directors in charge of the building of the city's hospital project.

The council has also said it will not be satisfied with a mere libel action, which could result in the magazine being forced to publish an extensive apology and pay a small fine. It also expects Siemens to

launch an action for civil damages.

Siemens has issued a statement in Vienna saying that it will inform the council, before the ultimatum expires, of what measures it has taken. The Siemens contract for the general hospital project is worth 60m.

A further ultimatum issued by Vienna's Mayor, Herr Leopold Grez, was due to expire this evening. He demanded that the three directors in charge of the hospital project prove that a series of accusations of corruption laid against them by *Proletarian Parols* was untrue or take the consequences.

The meeting between the council and the hospital project board, including the direc-

tors, began late in the afternoon and was expected to last until after midnight.

A number of firms whose names had been mentioned in connection with the hospital project, the cost of which has risen from the original 775m to 1,200m, are expected to attend 22,000m, held press conferences today replying to accusations made against them in the press and in a report by the Treasury Control Department.

The hospital affair has aroused much interest in Austria because of the involvement of a company in which the Deputy Chancellor and the Finance Minister have a majority interest and because of the possible impeachment of the former Minister of Health.

Rats move into Metro as cleaners stay away

From Charles Hargro Paris, April 10

The third attempt to reach a deal between the unions and firms who clean the Metro failed after an hour of discussion yesterday. The cleaners decided to continue a week-long strike.

Paper and refuse accumulated in the corridors of the Metro the same day as the strike. In some stations the stench is powerful and begun to appear.

The 900 cleaners, many of whom wait about £50 a month then up to the national basic wage, seek better working conditions including protective for use during dewatering and more break hours.

They are not all Metro travel to work of the other Metro washrooms. They stay in 1977 and minor concessions.

The fact that the strike again shows they feel exploited, plagues why Paris shown "unusual" since the beginning of a strike which men who want Fr. £290 instead of Fr. doing a dirty job, night.

Yesterday, crews who were not in companies under contract to Metro removed so much rubbish in about network's 355 stations.

This provoked so many protests from about strike breakers the CFTI, which has the Metro station, "popularization" of the Metro station terminals to explode to commuters.

The trouble is it seems to want to, possibly either for a moment or for a con the strike. M. Jarc the Mayor of Paris, who has been in touch with the Paris Tran over its refusal to be involved on the ground strike is a matter of cleaning firms and He demanded the to be in the negotiations to attend it.

At his request prefect of the Paris been asked by a deputies to call a strike of the Transport which includes a step of the state and authorities, to try solution.

But M. Jacques director of the Paris Board said in a recent strike he could not in a private would suffer the of a settlement.

"I cannot guarantee cleanliness (of the remain the same as the strike in a recent strike he could not in a private would suffer the of a settlement.

"I will now be much freer to fight than before," he said. "I will be free to teach what I like without keeping to a set curriculum, or worrying about the bishop."

Dr Küng had originally intended to fight for his right to stay at the faculty through the "West German courts but to might he said he had given up because of growing resistance among his colleagues. Seven of the 12 faculty members supported the bishop, and he did not want to spend years fighting his colleagues in the courts.

The compromise is seen as a provisional solution which would enable Dr Küng to return to the faculty if the Vatican changes its ruling.

Dr Küng clearly considers this a possibility. "Who knows what will be the state of the Church in three years or so, an loyal to my Church, and I do not intend to quit," he said. Mine is still an open question."

Officers join Finland's shipping strike

From Our Correspondent Helsinki, April 10

Merchant mariners joined Finland's ship today and all Finnish will come to a standstill as ships reach port at the world.

A two-week long seamen's strike, which began last night, will strike as soon as the ships arrive at any port.

Foreign shipping is also encountering difficulties because icebreaker has been on strike since the beginning of the month. Weather has enabled it to use southern ports in the Gulf of Bothnia.

A general wages was not reached this the general settlement 10 per cent has not been reached for the shipping.

Turkish groups in Berlin face police scrutiny

From Our Correspondent Berlin, April 10

Eight Turkish societies here suspected of radical leanings were ordered to submit lists of their members to the police.

The move comes at the request of the Ministry of the Interior and with the policy of keeping a closer eye on the political activities of such groups, set to improve order and safety in the city after recent extremist activities.

The eight societies have a membership of about 1,000 Turks. Altogether there are 30 Turkish societies or organizations in the city with an estimated membership of about 2,500 to 3,000 people. About 100,000 Turks are legal residents of West Berlin.

Poll shows Greeks hostile to N

From Mario Modiano Athens, April 10

An opinion poll published in Athens today suggests that only 12 per cent of the Greeks questioned want their country to rejoin Nato; 58 per cent opt for neutrality, and 3 per cent favour Greek membership in the Warsaw pact. —Reuter.

Publication of the poll results in the weekly publication *Tachydromos* coincided with a warning by Mr Constantinos Karamanlis, the Prime Minister, to a group of visiting American senators that it would be a grave error to think that Greece's allegiance to the West can be taken for granted.

Mr Karamanlis, who succeeded in obtaining full membership for Greece in the

European Community, now wants the country to return to Nato's military structure. But the move is being blocked by Turkey and the Greeks tend to blame the Americans for failing to curb Turkish objections. The Greek Opposition supports a policy of non-alignment.

The four United States senators, all members of the foreign relations committee, concluded a fact-finding tour of Turkey and Greece today. They expressed the belief that solutions would be found to the Greek-Turkish problems which are seriously affecting the relations of both countries with the United States.

The senators explain the reasons for their optimism except for saying that they had found the concern about what was happening in the world

running as a sort of thread through the process of all the whom they had spoken.

The two leaders group, Senator Joseph Democrat of Delaware Senator Howard Baker, Republican, at a press conference departure the import attached to the militia station of Greece.

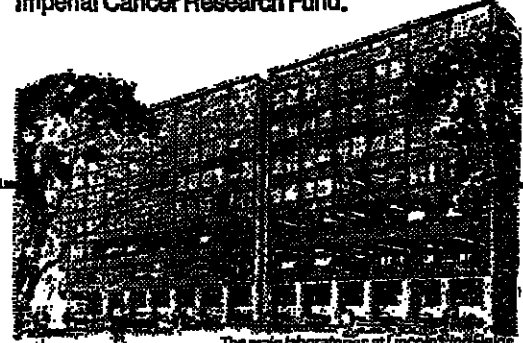
They took pains to the Greeks that their pro-Turkish tilt in States policy.

The senators had a today with Mr Andros from the Ministry of the Interior. Mr Andros advocates a complete with Nato and the United States. —Reuter.

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ERSEAS

Documentary evidence
urges US inquiry
to Murdoch loan

Michael Leapman

New York, April 10

Documentary evidence submitted to a Senate banking committee last week is encouraging its members to pursue their inquiries into a low-interest loan to the Australian publisher, Rupert Murdoch, by the Export-Import Bank of the United States. The bulk of the loan—\$290m (£130m)—was made at an interest rate of 7.95 per cent, which is lower than the average for aircraft loans given by the bank for aircraft purchased in 1979.

It was announced when Mr Murdoch's loan was approved by the Export-Import Bank that the documents given to the committee contain no reference to any link between the loan and the White House, but they do provide a clear picture of Mr Murdoch's financial position and his aggressive methods, as one member of the committee said.

Mr Murdoch's loan was approved by the Export-Import Bank on the basis of a recommendation by the bank's Asia division, which said: "Mr Murdoch is a bright man, a strong negotiator, and a very capable manager. He is a man who has been successful in the past and is likely to be successful in the future."

The documents also show that Mr Murdoch is a man who is not afraid to take risks. They show that he has been successful in the past and is likely to be successful in the future.

When Mr Murdoch began bargaining with Boeing, he insisted that the Export-Import Bank would have to provide financing for Boeing 767 aircraft (the as yet unlaunched rival to the Airbus) at a rate competitive with 7.95 per cent, although the American loan would be in United States dollars.

Mr Murdoch emphasized this point repeatedly. When he and some colleagues and two Boeing representatives visited the bank on February 19 (the day of the White House memorandum), Mr Murdoch pointed out that the 7.95 per cent basket of currencies was not comparable with 7.95 per cent on a dollar loan.

The Australian visitors disputed the suggestion, says a bank memorandum, pointing out that Australia had large energy resources and many other resources as well; that they expected Australia to have a strong balance of payments position and a strong currency in coming years and that they were not concerned by Deutsche Mark and French franc obligations.

The essential fallacy of that argument does not seem to have occurred to the bank's officials until later. Meanwhile Mr Murdoch applied powerful pressure to get his bargain-rate loan approved.

The next day he wrote to Mr Moore, again emphasizing his confidence in the strength of the Australian dollar.

On the same day he telephoned Mr Clarence Wilde of Boeing and made the same point, equally forcefully.

It was not until February 26, at a bank board meeting, that the logical flaw in the Murdoch argument was pointed out. Mr George Heidrich, deputy vice-president for the bank's Asia division, said:

"I would agree with your comment on Murdoch's comment that maybe the Australian dollar will harden vis-à-vis ours and be a strong currency—they're enjoying rather a big boom over there now—but it still seems to me that if it strengthens against the Deutsche Mark or keeps pace with it, it's a relative situation between what the Deutsche Mark and the dollar, United States dollar, are going to do, not what the Australian dollar is going to do."

Two days later Mr John Lang of the Treasury, which has to approve loans made by the Export-Import Bank, attended the meeting at which approval for the loan was given. He said:

"We would have hoped that matching the rate at 9.25 per cent would be certainly acceptable to all logical and reasonable human beings, but we hear what you're saying—that the decision maker in this case (Mr Murdoch) is playing Mexican standoff (being stubborn) with us and wants an eight per cent rate. We can't and don't feel it appropriate to even try and second guess (argue with) you on this."

So the loan was approved at the eight per cent rate for five Boeing 767s (the aircraft having a slightly smaller capacity than the Airbus). Loans for some smaller Boeing planes, totalling \$84m, were at 8.4 per cent.

Whether it was presidential influence, incompetence by bank officials or Mr Murdoch's bludgeoning tactics, which secured the low rate, is not made clear by the documents. The banking committee's investigator will in the next few days begin interviewing the principals—including Mr Moore and perhaps Mr Murdoch, who is at present in Australia—to try to make things clearer.

As for the White House, all that has emerged from it in the way of leaks is that there was discussion of Mr Carter's children and that Mr Murdoch was disappointed with the food—hamburgers.

paper caters for
gkong homosexuals

Correspondent

April 10

Background publication

The Pink Triangle

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Hopes for
end of
New York
strike

From Our Own Correspondent

New York, April 10

The first hopeful signs

appeared today of an end to the

strike of New York bus and

underground rail workers which

began 10 days ago. It is hard

to know, however, how far the

optimistic tone of reports on

the negotiations is due to des-

pair and frustration at the

growing difficulties which the

strike-bound city is experi-

encing.

Economists calculate that

businesses have lost \$600m

(\$270m) so far. Department

stores, theatres and restaurants

have all suffered a drop in

trade, as has the Barmen and

Bailey Circus, making its an-

nual visit to Madison Square

Garden. The baseball season

began yesterday and fans of

both the New York teams rely

heavily on public transport.

Traffic has been sticky ever

since the strike began but so

far has avoided the scourge of

"gridlock", which pessimistic

traffic experts have predicted.

They calculate that when a cer-

tain number of cars fill the city

streets the whole system will

come to a standstill and north-

ing will ever be able to move

Mr Koch said he found the

spirit of pedestrians as high as

ever when he made his daily

visit to Brooklyn Bridge this

morning.

The reported breakthrough in

the talks with the striking Trans-

port Workers' Union came when

the union agreed to consider

some of the changes in working

arrangements to increase pro-

ductivity being sought by the

MTA.

A wrong choice could cost him the White House

Will Mr Reagan compromise on
his choice of running mate?

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, April 10

Today's game is nominating

Mr Ronald Reagan's vice-

presidential candidate. Only an

act of God, or an act of egre-

gious folly on his own part, can

deprive Mr Reagan of the

Republican nomination and so

the question is whom will he

choose for a running mate.

There are two sets of rules

governing the game. The first

is the age old arithmetic of

balancing a ticket that has been

practised by every candidate

since General Washington, of

Virginia, chose Mr John Adams,

of Massachusetts, in 1788.

The other rules concern the

personality of the candidate.

Often enough, he will choose a

running mate in his own image

(Richard Nixon chose Spiro

Agnew in 1968 and 1972), or an

antithesis (Richard Nixon chose

Henry Cabot Lodge in 1960).

The candidates choose men

who are ideologically compati-

ble unless, like FDR, they are

so supremely self-confident that

they care nothing for their

vice-presidents, and they all pay

lip service to the need for the

Vice-President to be able to

take over the Government.

One of the rules is that before

announcing his choice, the can-

didate must insist that he does

not believe in balancing—the

ticket and that he is looking for

the most highly qualified man.

Mr Reagan makes these points

every time he is asked.

He is asked rather more often

than most because in 1976 he

named his running mate before

the convention—and then lost

the nomination. He chose

Senator Richard Schweiker, of

Pennsylvania, a moderately

liberal Republican who balanced

Conventional arithmetic has

it that Mr Reagan must choose

a member of Congress or at

least a man who knows Wash-

ington intimately. This con-

sideration led Mr Jimmy Carter,

also a former governor who

knew nothing of Washington,

to choose Senator Walter Mondale,

the ticket nicely.

He should also choose some-

one from the East or the in-

dustrial Mid-West, because that

is where he is weakest, and he

should choose someone less be-

ligerently conservative than he

is himself. Mr Schweiker ful-

filled all these desiderata in

1976.

There are three right-wing

members of Congress who are

running actively for the vice-

presidency. Senator Jesse

Helms of North Carolina, Mr

Jack Kemp, a congressman

from New York, and Mr Philip

Crane, from Illinois. Any of

them would undoubtedly ter-

rify away huge numbers of

moderates who are so sick of

President Carter that they are

seriously thinking of voting for

Mr Reagan.

The game, therefore, is to

judge whether Mr Reagan is

prepared to compromise on his

principles. Paris was worth a

Mass and perhaps Washington

is worth a Panama Canal

treaty.

If he does compromise, the

obvious choice as running mate

is Senator Howard Baker, of

Tennessee. He is distrusted by

the far right because he sup-

ported the Panama Canal

treaty, but his presence on the

ticket would vastly reassure

independents and moderates

across the country.

He is Republican leader in

the Senate and would be of

invaluable assistance to Pres-

ident Reagan in managing Con-

gress. The snag, apart from his

lack of extreme conservative

passion, is that he has no

clearly identifiable constitu-

ency.

He would not add much to

Mr Reagan's own strength in

the South and has no personal

following in the North-East or

Mid-West. He is liked and

trusted equally across the coun-

try, not in any particular state

or region. A running mate

ought ideally to deliver votes

for the candidate.

There are a few Republican

governors, most conspicuously

Mr Jim Thompson of Illinois,

who could deliver their states

and thus help Mr Reagan win

the election, but their ignor-

ance of Washington sharply

reduces their utility as Vice-

President.

The members vote secretly,

of course, on an assortment of

acting, directorial and techni-

cal categories and Mr Powell es-

timates that the powerful studios

are this year spending well over

\$600 to reach each voter.

Hollywood scrabbles
for tinsel share-out

From Ivor Davis

Hollywood, April 10

Hollywood's annual booty will

be handed out on Monday night

before a television audience of

60 million in America and many

more millions throughout the

world. The high class beaufest

is officially labelled the 52nd

Annual Awards of the Academy

of Motion Picture Arts and

Sciences.

Those watching the Oscar

ceremonies will tune in to the

famous faces, the speeches, the

triumphs, the stretch limou-

sines, plastic smiles, some sur-

prises and even tears.

There will, however, be no

signs of the frantic behind-the-

scenes battles that have been

fought in Hollywood during the

past three months. By the time

the prizegiving goes public the

war will have ended and the

casualties cleared.

The other day, Mr Charles

Powell, a leading figure in

Hollywood advertising and pub-

licity, estimated that each of

the big film studios in Holly-

wood will have spent a mini-

mum of \$350,000 (about

£160,000) apiece to try to woo

the 3,600 members of the

academy.

They are the people who

actually decide whether Dustin

Hoffman in *Kramer vs Kramer*

was a better actor than Peter

Sellers in *Being There* orwhether Jane Fonda in *China**Syndrome* will add another

golden statuette to her best

actress collection.

The members vote secretly,

of course, on an assortment of

acting, directorial and techni-

cal categories and Mr Powell es-

timates that the powerful studios

are this year spending well over

\$600 to reach each voter.

It is probably considerably

more if you add up every penny

spent because many of the stars

(surprisingly, of course),

their publicists, managers,

agents (even their mothers-in-

law) spend money to help win

Oscars and nominations.

The "war chest" goes mostly

to two small circulation daily

"trade" newspapers in Holly-

wood: *Daily Variety* and the*Hollywood Reporter* which,

until the final ballots are cast,

are far with full-page advertise-

ments bringing voters' attention

to the performance of a par-

ticular actor and actress or to

a film.

This year the battle has also

been taken into voters' homes.

A Los Angeles cable company

has been screening the nomi-

nated films so that the lazy

voters, who cannot be bothered

to attend a cinema screening,

can tune in.

As part of the battle strategy

many stars suddenly become

available for interviews, es-

pecially to local newspapers.

Peter Sellers, nominated for

Being There and considered to

have an outside chance of win-

OVERSEAS

Andean Pact nations offer asylum to some Cuban refugees

Lima, April 10.—Five South American countries and Spain have agreed to accept some of the estimated 10,000 Cubans in the compound of the Peruvian Embassy in Havana, Señor Arturo García, the Peruvian Foreign Minister, said here today.

He told a press conference after an emergency meeting of the five Andean Pact nations that Peru had agreed to give asylum to 1,000 of the Cubans who poured into the embassy last week after the Cuban Government removed guards from the building.

The other pact members, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela, had agreed to accept an unspecified number of the refugees, while Spain would also take some, Señor García said.

Foreign Ministers of the pact countries would meet later this month in the Venezuelan capital of Caracas to continue discussions on the issue, he added.

Señor García said the use of embassies for political ends was a tragedy.

The Andean Pact nations stated in a communiqué that the Cuban Government had the main responsibility for solving the matter "in accordance with the principles and norms of international law".

The communiqué supported the right of people to seek asylum and appealed to the international community to help the refugees leave the island.

Cuba has said that the refugees, who are living in appalling conditions in the compound, can leave as soon as another country gives them entry visas.

The refugees have appealed to the United States, Spain and

several Latin American countries to accept them. The United States has said that the problem should be resolved by South American countries.

In Geneva, the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICEM), a leading refugee agency, said Peru had asked it today to transport some of the refugees from the embassy grounds to their new homes.

ICEM, which transports most of the world's refugees once they have been offered resettlement, said it would immediately discuss the request with Cuba.

Certificates issued: In Havana, officials introduced a system of issuing the Cubans leaving the compound with a certificate giving them the right to emigrate, but stating that once they must stay there.

Very few of the refugees wanted to take advantage of the system. Most appeared to want to make sure of leaving by staying at the embassy and the system was later abandoned.

The measure was believed to have been introduced to relieve the congestion of the 10,000 people and their possessions packed into the half-acre gardens without taking away their right to leave the island.

Meanwhile, crowds in Havana have demonstrated against the refugees, cars sound their horns in protest and gangs of youths have massed near the police barriers near the embassy, calling the refugees "slugs".

The fear of being attacked by the crowds has stopped many people leaving the mission where food is being supplied by the Cuban authorities—Agence France-Press.

Japan decides spies will be prosecuted

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, April 10

A paradise for secret agents for 33 years, Japan is now expected to enact its first post-war legislation to prevent Soviet espionage.

A spokesman for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party said the Government would soon introduce a Bill in the Diet (Parliament) to curb the activities of foreign agents in Japan.

Under its terms, agents arrested on charges of collecting military secrets and sensitive material for a foreign power will, for the first time in three decades, be prosecuted in court and punished.

Spies who provide a foreign country with military secrets or confidential information about Japan's defence industry will face prison terms of between two and 15 years if the Bill is passed.

At present a spy cannot be prosecuted for espionage in Japan because sensitive political information is not covered by the country's espionage laws.

The Constitution stipulates that the Japanese people "forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes".

To achieve this aim, the Constitution stipulates that Japan must never maintain land, sea or air forces or any other potential for war. Under various interpretations of the Constitution it has been argued that anti-espionage legislation is unnecessary because Japan should not have to hide any military secrets.

Japanese newspapers have also opposed previous attempts to safeguard military and industrial secrets because they claim legislation could be abused to interfere with the freedom of the press.

As a result, Soviet agents and their local sympathisers have

operated in Japan with impunity for two decades. At worst, Soviet nationals arrested and local agents who provided military secrets were charged with espionage under the laws.

The move against espionage was prompted by a case in which a retired officer and two serving members of the armed forces were charged with espionage charges of providing Soviet agents in Tokyo with military secrets.

The three were arrested under military law, which prohibits serving or retired members of the self-defence forces from disclosing secrets to a foreign source.

The offence carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison and a fine of 10 million yen (about £1.5 million).

Japanese prosecutors allege that the retired officer, Major General Mutsaers, Miyamoto, and two Japanese officers received 50,000 yen from Soviet agents before they were arrested in January.

The second World War, when Japan was a German ally, was the last time that Japanese officers have been providing the country's traditional adversary with military secrets.

Japanese Right-wing nationalists have often used the history of pre-Second World War days, when they knew that the birth of a law to protect secrets will restrict the rights of the people. This move to introduce anti-espionage legislation can be termed as a challenge to democracy.

People want a free access to information and an attempt to enact an anti-espionage law runs counter to this trend.

The influential daily newspaper, the *Mainichi Shimbun*, said.

A conservative, dark-suited man puts some bite back into Cairo opposition politics

Honest Mr Shukri begins rocking Egypt's top-heavy boat

From Robert Fisk
Cairo, April 10

All week, the *khamaseen* wind has been blowing across Cairo, hurling the desert sand from the Sinai across Egypt's decrepit capital, and sending many breezes through the suffocating streets. It reached its climax after five days when it

turned the skies dark over Cairo and covered the trees in a fine yellow powder that malevolently found its way into every house. Even in the formerly secure suburb of Heliopolis, the streets were given a ritual layer of sand.

Only the party offices of Egypt's official Opposition seemed to take on an elegance in the storm.

They are housed in a small, nineteenth-century mansion set back from the main road. The streets behind the row of glass-fronted buildings are a maze of two narrow, cracked-in-the-wind alleys above the entrance. The black, white and red flag of Egypt hangs from one side of the door, while on the other, the Egyptian flag is displayed.

Mr Shukri, according to Mr Shukri, "wants to take everything in the peace process but give very little in return." The party is very much in the hands of Mr Sadat and Mr Sadat of their obligations.

No one, least of all Mr Shukri, could claim that the Socialist Labour Party is a serious threat to Mr Sadat's rule. The party, which holds more than 300 of the 398 seats in the Egyptian National Assembly, Mr Shukri's party picked up 27 in the last election, a modest victory which the president no doubt regarded as acceptable for a party whose existence was presumably intended to prove only that

the 1,200,000 Arabs of the occupied West Bank and Gaza. Mr Ibrahim Shukri ordered the flag to be hung outside his party headquarters when Mr Ibrahim ben-Helwan, the Israeli Ambassador, presented his credentials to President Sadat six weeks ago, and he has stubbornly kept it flying ever since.

Mr Shukri, a symbol that the "peace" political opposition encouraged by Mr Sadat might be growing some unexpected teeth.

"Israel," according to Mr Shukri, "wants to take everything in the peace process but give very little in return." The party is very much in the hands of Mr Sadat and Mr Sadat of their obligations.

"We are trying to be a very honest Opposition," he says, but we are trying to achieve this for the people and not for Mr Sadat. We are at the beginning of a democracy. But after a few minutes, Mr Shukri relaxes his guard.

"We know that there would be trouble over Palestinian autonomy from the moment we read the Camp David accord," he says. "We realized that there were good and bad points about the paragraphs on Israeli withdrawal from Sinai and the rights of Palestinians. The letters concerning Palestinian self-rule were very vague and we said that there would be difficulties with Israel over this."

Egypt maintains the trappings of democracy.

It is turning out to be something more than that, however Mr Shukri, who was imprisoned under the monarchy, is a quiet, silver-haired man approaching old age, a conservative figure in a dark suit and tie who does not look like the sort of man to rock the boat in Egypt's top-heavy Parliament. Nor, at first, does he sound like one either.

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"The words we hear from Mr Begin and Mr Shamir, the Israeli Foreign Minister, are really unacceptable. They say 'No' when we talk about a Palestinian state. They say 'No' to Jerusalem as part of the West Bank. They say 'No' to the borders of Israel. They increase their settlements in the West Bank. The Israelis always said to us that their aim was not just to have an ambassador in Cairo but to have normal relations between Israel and Egypt on all sides."

It is for this reason that Mr Shukri believes Mr Sadat should not have gone to Washington this week. The President should freeze the process of normal relations between Egypt and Israel. He should not recommend discussions, Mr Shukri said, "unless we hear from Begin and the others that they can discuss every facet of the peace agreement without preceding them with their refusals on Jerusalem and a Palestinian state."

Mr Shukri has advanced the same views in the party's newspaper *Al-Shabab*, which has also criticised the Government's inability to control inflation

and on one extraordinary occasion—carried an article accusing government officials of accepting bribes on a telecommunications contract. The newspaper has condemned Mr Sadat's proposed Law of Shame, which will stifle opposition criticism; and it has told the Government that it has no business offering arms to King Hassan of Morocco to combat the Polisario guerrillas because Egypt should not be encouraging Arabs to fight each other.

Mr Shukri is prepared to read still nearer the edge of acceptable political opposition. Mr Sadat, he says, should no longer lead the National Democratic Party because this dissuades people from joining smaller political groups. The President, he says, should be content to play the role of "father of the family".

"At present, we are still very near to a one-party system. We do have our newspaper and so far we have been able to write in it whatever we want. But every week we are performing a tightrope act over what we say."

Energy deal with China lifts NSW Premier

From Douglas Ashton
Melbourne, April 10

Mr Norrish Wran, the Labour Premier of New South Wales, appears to have achieved a remarkable success during his visit to China.

At the start of this week he became the first Australian state premier to be granted an audience with Chairman Hua Guofang.

The meeting lasted almost an hour. Mr Wran said afterwards that the main topics of discussion had been energy, trade and the "sister states" link established recently between the southern Chinese province of Guangdong (Canton) and New South Wales.

No doubt the fact that New South Wales supplies 50 per cent of Australia's exports to China is one reason for the courtesy with which Mr Wran has been received. It also seems likely that the Chinese, conscious of their energy problem, are looking towards New South Wales and its vast supplies of steaming coal.

Mr Wran is reported to have clinched a \$480m (£40m) deal to sell coal to China. It is also expected that Australia will be placed higher on the list of recipients of Chinese oil exports.

Mr Wran has announced in Peking that New South Wales will be exporting two million tonnes of steaming coal to China each year. He is continuing negotiations to sell coking coal to south China.

After meeting a senior executive of the Chinese oil industry, Mr Wran criticized Australian oil companies for rejecting a Chinese offer to sell oil in 1975.

Leading Australian companies, such as Colonial Sugar, Broken Hill Proprietary and Ampol, are searching for oil in the South China Sea.

At the moment, New South Wales exports 25 million tonnes of coal a year, mainly to Japan. The state has the world's largest known reserves of steaming coal and a new guaranteed export market would mean a huge development throughout the state's coalfields.

Mr Wran is expected to have discussions with the Federal Government when he returns to Australia as part of a plan to force Australian oil companies to renegotiate their agreements to include China.

With his success in China, Mr Wran has possibly embarrassed Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister. Mr Fraser has visited China and been received warmly. He has also been most enthusiastic in his public statements about the new relations with China, but he has not been shown the same respect as Mr Wran.

Syrians go on alert in Lebanon

Continued from page 1

were seen in political circles as a hint that the Israeli soldiers may soon launch attacks from their newly established bases in southern Lebanon.

American concern was shown this afternoon when Mr William Brown, the United States Chargé d'Affaires, met Mr Ezer Weizman, the Lebanese Minister of Defence, to discuss the border crossing. He reported to Washington immediately.

It is understood that American concern has been increased because the latest information has shown that during the past few days the most sensitive periods in the Middle East have been reached.

On Sunday, Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, is due to go to Washington for talks with President Carter about Palestinian autonomy.

The United Nations has also registered another strong protest to the Israeli army about the situation in Lebanon.

Adding to the tension in Lebanon were reports that Syrian troops based in the country have also been placed on the alert after the Israeli curfew.

There was still uncertainty tonight about the real intentions of the Israelis.

Artillery fire: Israeli artillery was reported to have fired on the north side of the town of Lebanon. The Lebanese Government launched diplomatic efforts to avert fresh bloodshed.

Student riots: In the second day of anti-Israeli riots in a suburb of Ramallah, north of Jerusalem, an Israeli policeman was injured (Moshe Brilliant writes from Tel Aviv).

Indignant students: The students marched through the streets chanting "we'll give you another Misgav Am" thus identifying themselves with the Arab terrorists who attacked the kibbutz.

Reliable eyewitnesses arriving from the border town of Qesr-e-Shirfi said that about 10,000 Syrians departed by the Baghdad authorities were crammed into a military camp near the border.

Further south in Ilam Province, the Governor of the town of Mehran said 2,346 refugees crossed into Iran in his region in the past 24 hours.

Reuters.

Sadat offer to extend target date

Washington, April 10.—President Sadat of Egypt has indicated he is prepared to extend negotiations with Israel on Palestinian autonomy beyond the May 26 deadline as long as the main issues have been settled.

Speaking on television today after two days of meetings with President Carter, he expressed cautious optimism about the outcome of the talks with Israel, saying the agreement could be achieved within hours if both sides showed sufficient dedication.

He said the obstacles facing the talks were not as great as the rift between Egypt and Israel before the 1978 Camp David meeting.

"We must persevere," he said. "I think we shall overcome."

Mr Sadat was prepared to be flexible over the target date but would not achieve a breakthrough by that time would be very serious.

He said Israel was responsible for the present deadlock in the talks and when the target date was met would depend on Israel's attitude.

If necessary he would be ready to attend a new, three-way summit in Washington with Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, and President Carter.

Mr Sadat also said that Israel's policy of establishing Jewish settlements on occupied Arab land was against the spirit and the letter of the Camp David accord.

But he would not abandon the autonomy negotiations if Israel continued to authorize the settlements—Reuters.



Chadian refugees cross the Chari river in dugout canoes to seek shelter in Cameroon.

Chad rebel force hit from rear

Ndjamena, April 10.—Troops headed by Colonel Wedal Abdelkader Kamougue, the southern leader, joined the battle where the rebels were being driven back by the army of Chad.

The rebels, who were being driven back by the army of Chad, were hit from the rear by the army of Chad.

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tracked the deserted city crossing with a full-on fight between Mr Habré's forces and those of President Goukouni Oueddei, his main opponent, in the European sector.

The rebel force, which was being driven back by the army of Chad, was hit from the rear by the army of Chad.

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Mr Kodjo left the embattled city yesterday after meeting both President Oueddei and Mr Habré. He said that some hope existed for a truce but to the rebels, who were being driven back by the army of Chad, were hit from the rear by the army of Chad.

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been sent to Tripoli by the transitional Government to inform the Libyan authorities on the situation in Chad.

The radio monitored in Tunis, added that Mr Adam had said that his Government rejected any reconciliation forum other than Lagos. He was referring to an agreement signed last August in Nigeria by 11 belligerent factions in Chad and aimed at bringing peace to the troubled former French colony.

Mr Adam arrived in Tripoli today and has already had a meeting with the Libyan Foreign Minister, the radio said—Agence France-Press.

business activities in Iraq, the most of any EEC member.

Officially the Government has not gone further than saying it is studying the situation in the light of a call for solidarity from Mr Richard Gardner, the American Ambassador in London.

The EEC's exports to Iran last year earned some £1,000m, or about 1 per cent of the Community's total export earnings. They were running at less than a third of the 1978 level. An embargo on exports to Iran would thus be fairly painless economically for the Community.

Until the fall of the Shah the EEC was the source of more than 40 per cent of Iran's imports. Iran's Revolutionary Council, however, has been content to allow the economy to grind to a virtual halt, and imports from the industrialised West have declined to a trickle.

The conclusion of EEC officials in Brussels is that while it would not be too painful to curtail trade with Iran, it is unlikely such action would impress a Government driven more by ideological than economic considerations.

Industrial lobby: Italian industrialists are urging Government and Parliament against making a commercial break with Iran to the extent requested by the United States.

Italy is felt to be more exposed than other countries to possible Iranian retaliation as it has about 1,500 citizens engaged on industrial projects and

attacked Pearl harbour, only their Ambassador was told to leave within 24 hours and other diplomats were given two weeks to depart, but all our diplomats, including one who has a 12-day-old baby, were told to get out in 24 hours," he said.

Algeria has agreed to look after Iranian interests in the United States, Mr Qorbazadeh told a press conference yesterday.

Naval readiness: The state radio announced that a naval unit was dispatched today from its bases in the southern ports of Abadan and Khorramshahr to the Gulf "to prove their readiness for confronting any invasion of our sea borders."

Iran has demanded that Iran evacuate three Gulf islands which the Shah's forces seized in 1971: close to the mouth of the key Hormuz Straits.

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THE ARTS

Roeg's new Curiosity Shop

Bad Timing (X)

Classic. Haymarket, and other cinemas

Starting Over (AA)

ABC, Shaftesbury Avenue

Soviet Film Season

National Film Theatre

Town Bloody Hall

Everyman, Hampstead

Nicholas Roeg, progressing through *Performance*, *Walkover*, *The Man Who Fell to Earth* and *Bad Timing*, has now firmly defined his personal style of self-conscious, recherché, fascinating artifice. *Bad Timing* is composed of a mosaic of small pieces, flitting backwards and forwards in time and place. The pieces form a jigsaw puzzle which the spectator is invited, bit by bit, to reassemble, so that the whole picture appears only when the very last piece fits into place.

In the course of the assembly there are smaller puzzles for distraction: enigmatic lines of dialogue throw out their challenges; characters appoint themselves after egos one to another; a man takes a picture (significantly a mural) from his wall at the very moment that another man in another place is hanging up the self-same image. Every scene, indeed, is like a picture puzzle, once a cinematographer composes his pictures carefully and elaborately. The rooms his characters inhabit are baroque clutter, their composition changing every time we see them, filled with significant disorder, significant or symbolic objects, books whose titles, deliberately displayed (Pinter, Paul Bowles, Freud), invite us to make associations and assumptions. In other hands all this might only be deception and distraction, but through these fragmented elements Roeg and his ingenious writer Yale Udoff create a perfectly coherent and intriguing central narrative and relationship.

The hero—Art Garfunkel with his look of malevolent elf—is an intellectual, a lecturer in psychology in Vienna. His special study is the nature of curiosity, and curiosity is his personal burden also. He is tormented by his own curiosity to know more, to know everything about Milena (Theresa Russell) whose own instinct (for fear, or defence) is to remain elusive, secret, devious, deceiving.

The man's curiosity and the girl's evasion are focused, finally, on their sexuality. He is voracious and violent; she is reluctant. And this factor proves, finally, the key to the mystery on which the film depends—a mystery surrounding the suicide attempt of Milena, which is solved, in the last moments of the film, by a Dostoevskian detective (played by a not very Viennese Harvey Keitel). I am not sure, finally, how much real substance lies beneath the glitter of Roeg's style; but it hardly matters. He is a director of panache and individuality, and with an ability to fascinate and compel the attention, and these are qualities rare enough among British film directors to prize highly.

Starting Over is the masculine version of *An Unmarried Woman*, and to emphasize the point it has Jill Clayburgh, the star of Paul Mazursky's film, in one of the leading roles. In *Starting Over*, directed by Alan J. Pakula, we follow the misfortunes of a male divorcee, played by Burt Reynolds. When his beautiful wife (Candice Bergen) walks out on him he is bewildered and disoriented: he had nothing against her after all apart from her singing voice.

The demoralized husband throws up his job (his own boss was the other man in the wife's life), sets up a cheerless bachelor pad and suffers the insistent sympathy of his family and bleak evenings with the divorced husband's circle, which meets in the church hall every week, just before the divorced wives' circle. He meets another woman (Clayburgh), but the affair is hazardous. He is timid and tactless, past experience has made him over-sensitive and edgy.

So far so good—and even better. Then, however, the script sticks like a record in the groove. This is the first film script by James L. Brooks, a leading American writer for television. And television, it is clear, is a bad, or at least restricted, training. Scene by scene the dialogue is shrewd, the situations are funny, the characters sound. Once the situation has been stated, however, the writer seems not to know where to take it; and

the story declines into a now-they-are-or-now-they-aren't affair, as the former wife re-enters the scene and the husband finds his infatuation for her. It looks rather as though Brooks composed a well-turned television hour, and then had nowhere else to go.

If it is a rather incomplete film, it is still a very attractive one. Burt Reynolds' development from beefcake through light comedian and bright director to being an actor of unusual skill has been a stirring phenomenon. He is a wonderfully self-deprecating performer, able to achieve his effects with the slightest movement of the eyes or twitch of the lips. Remarkably, he outclasses Jill Clayburgh, who seems to panic somewhat here in her efforts to be Annie Hall, and even the cool and witty Candice Bergen.

The contribution of Soviet film-makers to world cinema has been immense and vital. Even the Soviet cinema's most enthusiastic champions, though, cannot in honesty ignore the cultural poverty of that cinema in the period of reaction that followed the years of post-Stalinist liberalism. Nor can the destructive effects of official repression and suppression and untruth, which seem periodically endemic to Soviet culture, be underestimated. These attitudes have nothing to do with Socialism or Marxism or Leninism; they can always be traced to corrupt or frightened or greedy or ambitious and unprincipled individuals in bureaucratic control.

The past years have, however, seen small but hopeful signs of change. Soviet film-makers like Georgii Danilela and Nikita Mikhalkov have made films that depict people not as socialist models, but as ordinary, fallible human beings with goodwill enough to struggle to do the right thing. A season of 10 newish Soviet films at the National Film Theatre this month is intended to reveal something of these new tendencies.

This kind of cultural exchange is welcome, and maybe, in the end, a more effective form of communication than boycott and turned backs. But the value is minimized when it is done with the sort of evasion that regrettably marks the NFT presentation. In his introduction to the season, Mr Ian Christie writes: "Last year the Soviet cinema celebrated its official sixtieth anniversary with an impressive roll-call of directors reaching from the pioneers, Kuleshov, Eisenstein, Vertov

and Pudovkin to—well, who? Only one new Soviet director, Tarkovsky, has achieved wide recognition in the last decade."

Mr Christie chooses, conveniently, to forget Sergei Paradjanov, for many the greatest living Soviet director, who was politically indiscreet, consequently imprisoned in 1974 on trumped-up charges, and is now condemned to live inactive, a person outside the law. (Next week, as it happens, *The Times* will publish a remarkable, recent interview with Paradjanov.) He has forgotten, too, Elemia Klimov, whose *Agonia*, said by reliable witnesses to have been the most innovative Soviet film for decades, is shelved, apparently in permanence; or Klimov's young wife, Larissa Shepitko, killed last year in a car accident, who saw practically every one of her films delayed and frustrated; or Vasilii Shukshin, who also died young, whose film *The Red Snowball Tree*, with its portraits of real people as they really are, has never been seen in its complete form.

The worst is that Mr Christie is for certain neither naive nor mischievous. He would argue no doubt, that if he wrote things that did not please his Soviet guests we would not be able to see the films at the NFT. If you play with Russians you play according to their rules, or there is no game at all. In this connexion, there is reliable evidence that the reason *The Times* is no longer invited to cover the Moscow Film Festival is because its film critic is reluctant to pretend that Paradjanov does exist; and so did the rest; and so did the great Dovzhenko, still not comfortably accepted by the Soviet cultural establishment, which is perhaps why he, too, is absent from Mr Christie's list of pioneers.

There is a further chance to see *Town Bloody Hall*, a comedy by D. A. Penezhnev and Chris Hegedus, of a much publicized 1971 confrontation between Norman Mailer and a group of pioneer feminists, with Germaine Greer in the van. The event has rather the feeling of the boxing ring, though a militant lesbian introduction as an element of wrestling too. The body blow is struck by Mailer who exhorts her to "act like a lady". Nine years after, the event is already a period piece, with its evidence of the sort of posturing forced upon early militants of the women's movement.

David Robinson



Malevolent elf in a maze—Art Garfunkel



Bertice Reading

Only in America Round House

Irving Wardle

The names of Leibler and Stoller have impinged subliminally from many a Presley and Peggy Lee record label, and the present Fifths label seems to offer a good commercial pretext for spotlighting their contribution to that decade before they faded into the nostalgia department.

As their songs are so firmly attached to their own place and time, it should have been possible to build a coherent show around them, as Ned Sherrin has tried to do by equipping his company of 20 with continuous characters and a dramatic scenario. *Only in America*, he says, "follows three boys through one day in 1959, in a burnt-out back street in Brooklyn", but I doubt whether anybody could have worked that out from what he and David Yakir have actually put on the stage.

After a neighbourhood get-together with cops and hoolahooping girls discreetly filling in the background to Timothy Whitman's opening number (an Elvis-like solo with motorcycle), the evening dissolves into a sequence of 50 L and S songs grouped more according to subject than linear stage.

My impression at the end was that the partners excel above

all in combat duets: but this may be because they are usually sung by Bertice Reading. Miss Reading turns every one of them into a dramatic situation: she sits there doing her ironing, or bawling the family out, and happens to sing magnificently as the best way of getting her meaning across. As a result, numbers like "Jackson" and "I Ain't Here" (not to mention "I'm a Woman") sound like classics.

For support she has the thunderous but largely unutilizable bass of Val Pringle, and a pack of chorus boys and girls, few of them (excepting John Christie and Clark Peters) projecting anything beyond a firm grip of four beats in a bar. Whatever the show may do for Mike Stoller, the quality of delivery virtually erases Jerry Leibler's lyrics.

After half an hour or so, the rhythmic monotony takes its toll, and stupor sets in: though not to the extent of entirely blinding you to some of the nonsensical song links, which deposit the company in jail for possession of Love Potion No 9, and leave Miss Reading singing "Stand By Me" to three bewildered cinema ushers who have just cleared the "I Can't Say No" snogging party out of the seats.

There was also the spectacle of a love-sick boy singing "There Goes My Baby" as she sits marooned in a pink convertible trying vainly to reverse off the set.

Death of a Princess ATV

Michael Church

Reading between the lines of the advance publicity, it seemed to me that the omens for *Death of a Princess* were not good. Antony Thomas was a producer of proven merit and originality but his work had too often been characterized by heavy, even ostentatious editorializing, and this new programme was billed as being more about him than about the mythical girl whose fate he was investigating.

We were to be treated to extended musings on the Arab

predicament, the position of women in Islam, and on the difficulties journalists encountered when they stepped outside their own cultures. When a nervous little voice-over preceded the programme, the implications seemed clear: this was going to be a piece of trendy-lefty propaganda, and let nobody think that the Arab world was mirrored in what was to come.

In the event what followed was a great surprise. This elephantine drama-documentary ought by rights to have foundered under the weight of its conscious artifice—faces and places in deep disguise, and even an ubiquitous actor playing Thomas himself—but it developed an uncanny momentum. For two hours we peered through veils and squinted

predicament, the position of women in Islam, and on the difficulties journalists encountered when they stepped outside their own cultures.

As in Kurosawa's film *Rashomon*, we were offered a number of plausible hypotheses, but finally arrived at a much more poignant solution. Beautifully photographed, this film was full of subtleties: the accounts of the princess and her milieu often conflicted in their particulars, but taken together they built up a convincing composite picture.

What privileges did these pent-up, bored women have? "Sex. In this society women are the predators." But perhaps, as the lady school teacher pointed out, the veil was an imperialist measure to silence the women of Islam. "There is no veil in Islam."

And also the requisite feeling for precise punctuation on the orchestra's part. Nevertheless the aria itself had a nicely shaded vocal contour, if not quite the vehemence it calls for. To this the singer eventually added the Countess Almaviva's "Porgi amor" from *The Marriage of Figaro*, certainly a generous bonus.

Mozart was attractively framed by symphonies of Haydn and Schubert. The former's Symphony No 195 in C minor would have benefited from a more forceful rhythmic bite in the opening movement, although the variations of the Andante were well characterized and there were notable solo contributions from the principal cello in this and the following movement. Schubert's captivating Third Symphony had a wealth of grace and charm as classical era of Cecilia Locatelli, Campion and Jacob van Eyck was a great age of romance.

A French flute and guitar duo heard north of the Thames that same evening, Christian Maestri and Christian Rasquier, carried their programme to "Greensleeves" and Telemann to the present day. Mannered rubato did not help a Grosse Sonata by Beethoven's lesser contemporary Giuliani, and there was more to enjoy from fingers than heart in Athenia's "Sevilla" (solo guitar) and Anderson's third etude (solo flute). But both fluent players found real imaginative stimulus in Vittoria's "Eldorado" (1977) and Ibert's "Entr'acte", done with variety of tone colour as well as flair. Three encores were equally lively.

Joan Chissell

London debuts

When the cellist Catherine Wilmer and her pianist Jane Dodd made their official (SAS) sponsored debut, *The Times* was not in print. So, with over a year's intervening experience, it was scarcely surprising that ensemble was close on their return to the recital platform under the auspices of the Kirkman Society. It was a true partnership of equals, except that Beethoven in his second sonata so patently favours the pianist—and Miss Dodd's characterization was as keen here as throughout the programme.

The cellist came into her own in Liszt's late "La lugubre gondola" (so much more familiar as a piano solo) and Barber's rarely heard romantic Sonata, Op 6, as well as Brahms's No 1 in E minor, revealing herself an eminently serious, musicianly artist of firmly projected even if not meltingly lyrical tone, reliable intonation and positive attack. Sometimes her phrasing seemed a little objective. Certainly the trio of Brahms's Allegretto needed more intimate personal inflection. But the found the intensity for Barber's impassioned homecoming, and gave still more evidence of temperament in an irresistibly poignant miniature by Nadia Boulanger chosen as first encore.

Nothing in Sooja Nerdum's recital was more enjoyable than the songs by her companion, Grief. Besides "Phrasing Spring" and "With a Prima vera" with charm, she also coaxed surprising reserves from her pretty, light voice (despite what seemed like an incipient cold) for the swelling climax of "Autumn Storm". Nor were Spanish songs lacking in tonal intensity, though her soprano, her lower register was inadequate for Rossini's "Nacqui all'affanno" (*Cenerentola*), but both here and in Handel arias there was some impressively nimble coloratura higher up. Berlioz's *Le Spectre de la rose* and a group of Bellini songs, like Nocturnes by Chopin, sometimes found her a little short of breath, though when not strained by longer flights there was again a charmer. Unfailingly flexible at the piano, David Harper always knew when a strong lead was needed.

The Corbetta Ensemble from Belgium combine recorder (Guido Hulsens) and viola da gamba (Piet Stryckers) with a baroque guitar (Peter Pieters) instead of the more familiar harpsichord, calling themselves after an eminent seventeenth-century guitarist much con-

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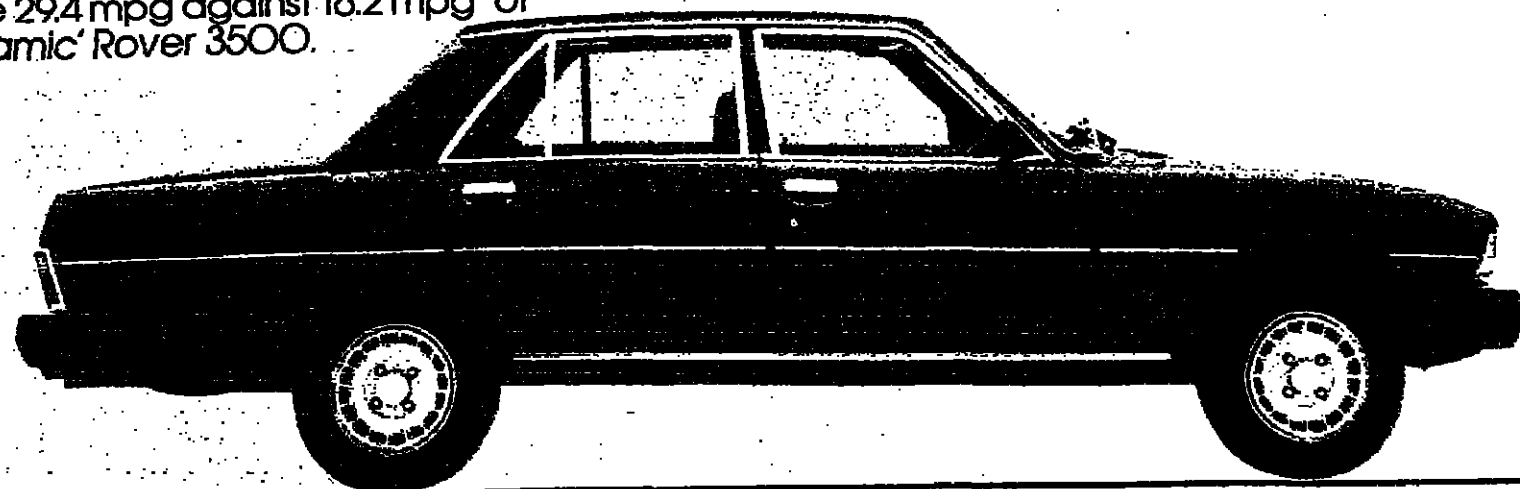
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D22

Forty years ago the Finns were preparing to stage the 13th Olympics—instead they were attacked by Russia

The war that ended the Phoney War

The Phoney War ended abruptly on April 9, 1940, with the Allies, Britain and France, facing at Narvik, below the Arctic Circle, what some thought was the wrong enemy, in the wrong place at the wrong time.

It was a suitably bizarre curtain to six months of unreality, marked by the weaving of grandiose plans for military intervention which never took place. The theatre would have been Finland, the occasion, possibly the last of the great causes of the thirties, and it is perhaps appropriate that we should recall the Winter War now for the aggressor was the Soviet Union.

In the Kafkaesque atmosphere prevailing in Europe in the late summer of 1939 the fate of Finland, only one of the small states struggling valiantly to stay outside the now aligning power blocs, caught the democracies' imagination. But in its fight for survival, when eventually it came to the aid of Britain, Finland found itself alone. And this was despite having the moral support of all those nations unsympathetic to the unholy alliance of Moscow and Berlin and the backing of a League of Nations resolution urging those same nations to act against the aggressor.

There was talk, lots of it, and there were gestures; the League wound up a decade of empty gestures against totalitarian aggression, and incidentally its own span, by expelling Soviet Russia and passing that resolution, its last.

Then there were offers of medical supplies—a fully-equipped ambulance unit was sent by Sweden—but actual war material, the fighters and long-range artillery needed to break up massed Russian formations in the air and on the ground, were only grudgingly conceded, so much so that the war was over before weapons

of any real value left Britain, let alone reach the front.

The Finns asked for a few Hurricanes but an Air Ministry short of material itself could release only obsolete Gladiator biplanes. Volunteers flocked to join up and some even underwent ski training on Hampstead Heath.

The northern Baltic, serving as it did as a front door to Russia, had been tacitly agreed as a Soviet zone of influence. Which meant that small countries could be neutralized, perhaps to be swallowed later at leisure. Russia began the process with the Baltic republics—after all it was Latvia where a certain lady is supposed to have gone for a ride on the back of a tiger. How far it intended to go with Finland is uncertain; a puppet government was set up in a border town but never had the remotest credibility.

The Russian invasion stemmed from the fact that Stalin felt he could not trust his new ally, Hitler. The pact that cleared the way for the Second World War also signalled what everyone talked of as "the rape of Poland."

The Finns were preparing to play hosts at the 13th Olympic Games in Helsinki, but found themselves at war—it was either this or an immediate and humiliating loss of territory to make an extra buffer for Russia's northern flank.

One of the principal figures in these events, Vyacheslav Molotov, Foreign Secretary in Stalin's recently celebrated 50th birthday at his Moscow flat. His version of the causes of the war, put out for international consumption, which led British communists to talk of "Finnish militarists" deliberately provoking the Soviet Union, through a border incident, also led to defections from the party. One of the British comrades' favourite songs, about the Red Air Force, ran: "We drop the workers leaflets while we



Finnish troops with captured tanks after their victory over the Russian 44th division in 1940.

bomb their bosses." The words were at marked variance with newsreels showing Soviet bomb damage to Finnish workers' homes.

Another, smaller but no less interesting player in the drama is still alive and living in retirement in Switzerland. As British Minister in Helsinki, Mr Thomas Snow had the enviable task of interpreting the growing crisis.

What was so singular about Mr Snow's briefings was that they went beyond ordinary diplomatic usage and urged a ploy to relieve pressure on Finland that a Schlieffen plan would have balked at. He suggested a new Russo-Japanese war. And although the suggestion was turned down, the Chiefs of Staff did seriously consider the possibility of war with Russia, as the Foreign Office papers in the Public Record Office show.

On October 21, Trafalgar Day, in a suitably pugnacious mood, Mr Snow telegraphed Whitehall: "I assume that the choice before His Majesty's Government in the case of the Russian attack will present itself as a choice between a

breach of diplomatic relations with Russia or a declaration of war."

In the latter connexion I venture to suggest that Stalin is a more likely winner than Herr Hitler and if left to his own devices is accordingly possibly the greater menace of the two. He goes on to ask how the Soviet Union could be damaged, and suggests "an arrangement with Japan".

He says: "Japan, which would be in a position to deal Russia's criminal policy a sickening blow, is animated by a deep-seated hostility to Bolshevism. At the same time the prospect of securing Vladivostok, Amur and Sakhalin would appeal profoundly to Japanese aspirations." He continued that such an Anglo-Japanese arrangement would be in line with United States policy.

All this drew from the Foreign Office was the marginal note: "The Japanese would probably want a quid pro quo, such as a completely free hand in China... which would involve quite as immoral a transaction as acquiescence in Russian attack on Finland."

However, on the 30th this

minute appeared in Foreign Office files: "If Soviet action, either in Scandinavia or in Central Asia, were to endanger British interests, it is conceivable that we might find it necessary to encourage Japan to attack the Soviet Union, especially as we are not ourselves in a position to take military action against that country ourselves."

The reference to Asia and the date are interesting, for two days after the War Cabinet were considering the study from the Chiefs of Staff. Under the general heading of "Effects of such a war" the military chiefs wrote: "The main disadvantage of declaring war would be that we might soon have to face an attack by Russia against Iran, Iraq and India and there would be intensification of Naval attack upon our trade."

But, accepting that an alliance between Germany and Russia would be an uneasy one, the chiefs drew attention to the dangers of an over-flow of the war into the neutral Scandinavian countries and the effect in fueling Germany's fears for iron ore supplies.

Any threat to interrupt that might provoke a reaction. And so it did. For all the huffing and puffing about Russia, Finland fought on with the help of the bitterest winter weather of the century to keep its honour, but at a cost of far more territory than if it had yielded. Churchill's wish for intervention to cut the iron ore link was realized too late. It turned out as the generals predicted: the real threat proved to be the Nazis and in the race for the Arctic they won.

Mr Snow's theories, with the cease fire sounded in Karelia, were safely condemned as "half-baked" and he was replaced. The Times on March 16, said: "Some idea of the dauntless spirit of Finland may be gained from the fact that already the idea of holding the Olympic Games this year, for which preparations in Finland were well advanced, is being discussed." Of course they were cancelled and the athletes village used for precious post-war housing. But Finland did get its chance—it staged the Games in 1952.

John Crossland

Geoffrey Smith

The task for Labour's reformers

There is so much talk about constitutional reform in the Labour movement these days that it has become something of a party obsession. But there is a distinctive feature about the attention that Labour MPs are directing to their own proposals: this cannot be portrayed as simply another battle between left and right. Inevitably this conflict enters into it, as it does into every aspect of Labour activity at the moment.

But out of two of the most substantive questions before the working party on the Parliamentary Labour Party, which will move towards its critical decisions soon after the House reassembles next week and is expected to report something in the early summer, there is a fair amount of common ground between the active reformers of left and right.

The principal protagonists from the left are Mr Anthony Wedgwood Benn and Mr Eric Heffer, who presented a joint paper to the PLP last summer. On Mr Michael Meacher, who has delivered a paper to the working party. None of them is a member of the working party, though all have given evidence to the right of the most eager reformers. Mr Mike Thomas, Mr Giles Radice and Mr Philip Whitehead, all of whom are on the permanent working party.

There are differences between the groups, but both advocate greater control by backbenchers over who serves on, standing and select committees of the House of Commons, and over the choice of a Labour Cabinet.

Those who believe, simply that the right of decision on everything should be spread wider still and wider will give a reflex cheer on both scores. But in fact two very different principles are involved and it would be wise to consider the general principle of the parliamentary system is that the government is part of Parliament, deriving its authority from Parliament. The function of Parliament, however, is not simply to hand over this power right to the government, to which it is put and to check the proposals presented by government. In so far as Parliament makes an unconditional surrender of power to government Britain becomes in constitutional terms, as Lord Hailsham put it, an elective dictatorship.

It is to correct what is widely believed to be too pronounced a trend in that direction that a potentially stronger structure of select committees has been established in the present Parliament. The work of government has become so complex that it cannot be scrutinized in any depth in a chamber of 635 members.

But these committees will not be able to realize their potential if government can, through the Whips, exclude the more independent members from serving on the particular committees where they would be most knowledgeable. The same principle applies to the standing committees, which consider the details of all legislation.

The membership of both select and standing committees is now determined by the House of Commons Committee of Selection, which is itself dominated by the Whips. There is

some disagreement as to independent in the Labour movement these days that it has become something of a party obsession. But there is a distinctive feature about the attention that Labour MPs are directing to their own proposals: this cannot be portrayed as simply another battle between left and right. Inevitably this conflict enters into it, as it does into every aspect of Labour activity at the moment.

The case for giving benches greater control who serve on committees of the House of Commons, and over the choice of a Labour Cabinet.

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Why the silver gang studies the market

Among the identikit pictures and duty rosters on the walls of the incident room for the police inquiry into the Great Silver Bullion Robbery, some cynic has put up a little graph.

The rising red line shows the cost of the inquiry while the dropping black line marks the fluctuating value of the haul snatched from a lay-by on the A13 almost three weeks ago.

The black line does not start at £4m but £3.339m, which was the value on the morning of March 24 when the 10 tons of ingots were loaded into a container. Hours later, amid uncertainty and conflicting reports, everyone fixed on £4m when one of the three travelling with the silver freed himself, rushed up to a passer-by and said: "Get the police. I've just lost four million pounds worth of silver."

It is some consolation to Detective Superintendent David Little and his team of up to 40 officers from the robbery squad

The police are following up dozens of tips—one came from a water diviner, one from a medium in California

The silver might still have been safe if its transit was kept a secret but the police think that dozens of people must have known about the runs, and the arrangements for the trip of March 24 were drawn up three days beforehand. The gang had a weekend to organize themselves and they put the time to good use. The false census point was set up at 7.30 am, long before the load left London. The gang—the police think there may have been at least 10 involved—took the risk of being detected to keep the site clear of parked lorries.

To make sure everything was ready two vans were on the A13 shadowing the bullion and its escorting car. They could identify the bullion lorry be-

cause it was marked with the name of the company. On the approach to the lay-by one van got in the lane ahead of the bullion and flashed its lights to the waiting policeman and two "census takers".

After seizing the bullion, the gang remained cool. The police have one report that the stolen lorry unit—the bullion was in a container on an attached trailer—was parked an hour after the alarm had been given by a driver who sauntered off and caught a number 101 bus.

Since then, silence. It only took 45 minutes to load the bullion at the warehouse and although each ingot weighs about 60lb, Mr Little thinks it could have been transferred quickly. What has happened

since remains conjecture, despite almost daily raids by the police on suspects.

The value of the bullion to the gang would be between a half and a third of its legitimate worth but that is still a hefty sum and they almost certainly had a buyer in mind when they moved. The silver may have been melted down with a bare metal to make it unidentifiable or even been cut up—silver is soft.

Mr Little believes the gang may well be waiting for the market to rise before acting. Bullion and silver dealers are warned to watch for any unusual approaches. It is the moment when the gang decides to move again that may be crucial to the police, because it means the number of people involved increases and so does the chance of a weak link. It is being emphasized that whatever the value of the silver at the time of recapture the reward of £300,000 still stands. That amount is likely to be far more than anyone in the gang will make from his share.

Stewart Tandler

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It pays to get moving.

Braving the hazards of Soviet hotels

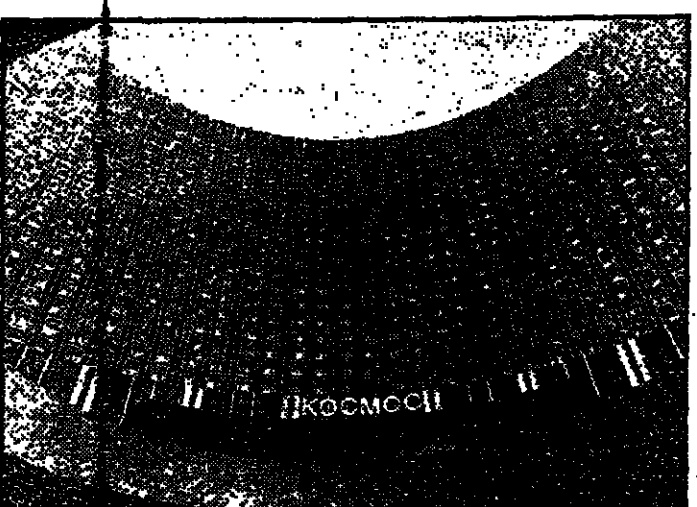
A few months ago there mysteriously appeared on the Moscow black market all kinds of French kitchenware—saucepans, knives, glasses and crockery. No one knew where they came from, until tourists began to report that the new luxury French-built Cosmos Hotel seemed to be extremely short of the most elementary objects such as plates, forks and table cloths.

Now the Cosmos, a gleaming 25-storey edifice with 3,642 beds, restaurants to seat 3,400, chandeliers, marble halls and a daily room rate to put it in the four-star class, is performing becoming a little more Sovietized.

It was not intended to be. When the contract was signed, the French undertook to provide everything. The entire labour force was brought in from France or Yugoslavia. The only Russians on the building site were dustmen and cleaners. Apart from sand, gravel and cement practically everything was shipped by rail or lorry from France. All the fixtures were of French or other Western make. Only in this way, tourists and the contractors agreed, could Moscow be guaranteed a grand hotel where everything worked.

As almost everyone who has visited the Soviet Union has discovered, most hotels do not work—at least, not in a way that resembles anything at home.

First of all, as a foreigner it is almost impossible to find out in advance where you are going to stay. You arrive at the airport, are whisked off in an Intourist car and discover your destination only when you get there. Checking in, theoretically, is simple as the entire stay has to be paid in advance and you just produce your vouchers.



Moscow's Cosmos Hotel, built by the French with four-star prices

But if you are a businessman or long-term resident it is more complicated: you have to produce letters, forms, authorization from the Central City Hotel Administration. And it costs a fortune if you want to pay in roubles. Overnight hotel rates have just risen by up to 200 per cent. A double room in a motel in Suzdal now costs 90 roubles (\$80).

Having checked in you are given a slip of paper with your room number. Don't throw it away because it is the only means of getting back into the hotel once you have stepped outside, unless you are prepared for a great deal of pleading and arguing with an obstinate old man at the main door.

You then go up to your floor to get the key from the doorman or lady on the floor, as there are no elevators. You then see her rather quaintly described in some brochures. These venerable figures appear to have no official function other than handing out keys. They are mostly grey-haired, are usually knitting or reading and will reluctantly exchange your slip for a key. A smile is hard to obtain, but if you are wise enough to come

with a child they quickly turn into happy old grannies who will willingly baby-sit, provide tea and chat about the weather at any time of the day or night.

Sometimes a porter has already preceded you into the room. Then there is a problem. Notions that tipping is uncommon have largely disappeared. But you are not meant to have any roubles yet and Russians are not allowed to receive foreign currency. The solution is simple if you have several packets of chewing gum in your pocket: though if you're not American this necessity is hard to foresee.

Meals in Soviet hotels take an extremely long time. If you are part of a senior delegation a table has been reserved, groaning with bottles of vodka, lemons, champagne and plates of cold salad no matter what time of day you arrive. If you come in a group you will be shepherded to a special area where vast tables await you. But if you are an individual tourist you risk throwing everything into chaos.

You might, for example, innocently sit down to a breakfast that appears to be ready waiting for you, only to find

that you have eaten part of a tourist group's breakfast. You will be roundly abused by the waitress, the group leader and the hapless tourist who then has to go without. Or you might fancy what the group is eating—but individuals must pick from the menu. You can guarantee that most of the dishes are off, including those being eaten by your tour group neighbours.

One problem with Intourist hotels is that they organize catering centrally, and Moscow decides the allocations. I found in Georgia that though the local markets were full of fresh vegetables, there were no tomatoes or cucumbers to be had in the restaurant.

Most Soviet hotel rooms are adequately furnished, though the beds are recently complained that there were no factories making hotel furniture and repairs were difficult. Beware if you are tall: Soviet beds are short with wooden ends. I lived for a year in a hotel in Minsk and never managed to get the bed changed. The only solution was to dismantle the footboard every night, with the occasional sudden collapse of the whole structure while I was sleeping.

Still, foreign tourists fare far better than Russians. In the Minsk Hotel I sometimes saw Intourist families wandering about the corridor in their pyjamas in the middle of the night. It appears there is a system of "bumping" according to seniority, and if you are unlucky enough to be asleep when a top party delegation arrives unexpectedly late at night, the manager simply turns you out of your room.

One Russian who travelled a lot on business was so fed up that he detailed the usual scenario in a newspaper article whenever he arrived in town he went to the hotel in the morning and found there were no vacancies. Though he had written to the hotel to advise the director despite ever receiving the reservation.

He went on: "After paying

a visit to the organ where you have business return with an official to the hotel director, which usually gets you a large authorization to obtain it—but you still have no room itself nor a room rate. Then you can wonder whether to go about your business for which you cannot spend the day waiting in hotel lobbies of jet-setters.

"If you decide to go your business, you return hotel in the evening to find the director has gone home. The hotel is full of foreigners—you still can't room. The only consolation that the situation wouldn't be any different if you spent the whole day waiting in the hotel lobby, checking with the desk."

He said that over the he had had to spend the at railway stations, on so factory offices, on camp in hotel halls, on park benches. "What is especially vexing is to endure all so orders to obtain a room then find that the hotel has numerous vacant rooms that many others are occupied by all kinds of speculators."

Sometimes it seems the best hotels are the oldest pre-revolutionary Metropol National in Moscow, the Ar or Yevropaiskaya in Lenin I once extravagantly booked parents a suite at the Yevropaiskaya. It was magnificent an entrance hall with a large Soviet flag, a salon with a piano and old upholstered and chairs, a study with nets of crystal and porcelain (locked, of course) and television sets and a bed with massive carved Victorian beds.

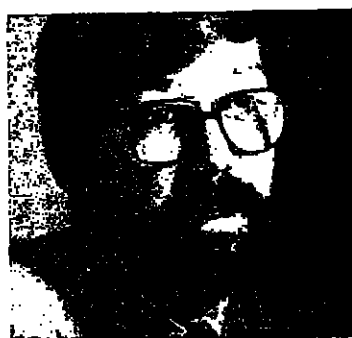
Unfortunately, it was during particular times and conditions, it is huddled gold-upholstered chairs in bathroom and drink vodka keep warm.

Michael Biny



How can we squeeze more miles out of your gallon?

Shell's laser 'eye' reveals some secrets.



Dr Martin Swords, Shell Scientist,
Thornton Research Centre.

"One of the biggest problems in engine design is finding

out just what's going on inside while the engine's running.

Engineers have long known that the turbulence of the petrol mixture and gases swirling inside the cylinder has an important effect on performance – but the

difficulties of measuring the characteristics of a gas cloud which explodes about every 12 milliseconds, reaches 1500°C and is locked away inside thirty or forty pounds of metal, have proved insurmountable until now.

We are now able to drill holes in an engine cylinder, insert thick quartz windows and punch laser beams through the gas clouds as they mix and burn.

Using this technique we can work out the turbulence and the velocity of the gases.

Engineers and scientists can use this data to improve both the cylinder geometry and the chemistry of the fuels.

Since we estimate that this new information could help to bring about fuel economy improvements as great as twenty per cent, it is a development of some consequence.

If you think of the difference such a saving would mean to you, it's easy to see why we think this work is so important."



ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 24. Dealings End, Today. § Contango Day, April 14. Settlement Day, April 21
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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ten business
ans
ving social
blems, page 21

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Atlas Copco
compressed air systems.
A force put to work
for you.

Stock markets

FT Ind 431.8, up 0.5.
FT Glts 64.89, up 0.41.

Sterling

2.1872, up 92 points.
index 72.4, up 0.3.

Dollar

index 89.7, down 0.1.

Gold

527.5, down \$20.

Pound

month sterling 174.17%
month Euro-£ 181.19%
month Euro-£ 181.18%.

IN BRIEF

net sets de £1.4m inst gations

Holdings, the insurer, has made a special provision against potential litigation within the insurance community. The provision has contributed to a net slump in the profits to £3.5m.

Commonwealth Insurance of Manitoba, has named Minster as its agent in a writ of habeas corpus cover on a marine insurance business.

Financial News, page 23

Gas pipeline

Gas has awarded five worth £52m for three of pipeline running between the Rivers of the North.

Sea oil find

Oil has been made by the National Oil Corporation 22,23A, south-east of the North Sea.

Japanese TVs

of Japan plans to produce television products in the United States and his year, to cope with continued import.

recovery

Chrysler Corporation has been made a financial plan since Congress \$1,500m (£691m) in rates, but the pack is incomplete.

risers slowing

prices as slowing according to the National Society. Prices 4 per cent in the first of 1980, compared with per cent in the third last year.

in stays on

ril Stein, chairman of Group, said yesterday had no intention of from the group after by the main London by the courts.

mic acquisition

nic has acquired Tele-its previous Japanese or, as an outlet for, the parent company, c Business Equipment, concentrate on office marketing.

2 & Gilwell sale

2 & Gilwell, which is £8.4m for Furniture Maple & Co, plans to 35m by selling its main store in Regent Street, up entered an option with Debenhams which a store to expand its toy shop.

Government encouraged by decline of £133m in bank loans to private sector

By Roman Eisenstein

Banking Correspondent

The new set of banking figures for the four weeks to March 19 is encouraging for the Government. There are signs, yet to be confirmed, that the rate of bank lending is slowing down, and that money supply may be coming under control.

The lending figures of the London clearing banks show that, on a seasonally unadjusted basis, advances to companies and individuals are down by £133m. The adjusted figures for the whole banking sector are still likely to show an increase, but it should be less than the £574m rise which took place in February. A further qualification is that there may have been some switch of borrowings from banks to the money markets, and there was also a £218m increase in acceptances.

The fall in lending was spread through most sectors, the only exception being retailing which showed a sharp increase in borrowings. This suggests that high interest rates and the poor economic outlook

has deterred personal borrowers, and that manufacturing companies have been running down their stocks. Retailers, on the other hand, seem to have been left with unwanted stocks which they are unable to sell.

This was the first month for the Government's new monetary target, announced in the Budget. The period is to run until April 1981, and the target is a 7 to 11 per cent growth of M3, the broad-based measure for the money supply.

The corset restrictions on bank lending came off in June, and banks which avoided them by advancing money through acceptances may now switch back to overdraft facilities. This could add up to 2 per cent to money supply.

On the other hand, there will be some reduction of M3 because of the seasonal surrender of certificates of tax deposits.

The figures for the banking

sector as a whole show that banks have exceeded the level of interest-bearing liabilities allowed by the corset by £1,100m, and have incurred penalties. They lodged £132m of interest-free deposits with the Bank of England.

Banks have been under continued pressure on their lending resources. The reserve asset ratio for the system as a whole is down from 13.2 to 13.1 per cent, and for the London clearing banks it is down from 12.8 to 12.7 per cent, very close to the limit of 12.5 per cent. The fact that banks have still refrained from raising their interest rates is possibly a response to recent criticisms of their high profits, which could be a reason why some have been prepared to incur the penalties of the corset regulations.

Overall eligible liabilities are down by 0.2 per cent to £52,773m. Interest-bearing liabilities are also down by £292m to £52,481m. But these figures are unadjusted, and the authorities do not expect the decline to be matched by a fall in money supply.

Table, page 20

Underwriters sell remaining 29 pc of United Biscuits rights issue

By Philip Robinson

The £34m rights issue launched by United Biscuits last month, fell short of expectations yesterday, as Morgan Grenfell, their financial advisers, announced that only 71 per cent of the 51 million shares offered had been taken up.

The rest, around 14.5 million shares worth just over £10.5m could have been left with the underwriters but for some "advice" salesmanship by joint sub-underwriters Rowe Pitman and Wood McKenzie, the stockbroker firm, which sold them to financial institutions in around half an hour yesterday morning.

The 40 or so salesmen of the two stockbroker firms had been talking with the institutions since the issue was launched on March 13, but had stepped up their sales effort around Easter.

Sir Hector Laing, chairman of United Biscuits, who failed to take up all his rights, said last night: "About 15 per cent of our stock is with the family and there was a question of laying hands on cash. Every penny I have is tied up in the business."

"I am not disappointed with the result of the rights issue. Our record shows that we have grown by around 13 per cent in real terms every year and if we are to continue this we must invest."

"Our entries into fast and frozen food might cause a pause in that growth, but the investments we are making now will benefit us in the second half of 1980," Sir Hector said. It is reckoned in the City that Sir Hector's cash problems were also being shared by many small individual shareholders who are thought to have shunned the rights issue.

They appeared to be unimpressed with the 23 per cent dividend rise sweetener and the profits record which, according

to some food analysts, have been flat since 1977. United Biscuits had also to sell the rights issue against a falling market. When it was launched its shares were 87p and at that price it represented a 22 per cent discount on the 68p offer price.

But the shares fell 7p on the news and soon came down to within a whisker of the issue price. The residue was sold at a 1p premium to the price.

United's rights were the first big issue this year, and its bid in the past five years, raising a shade under £100m. At the time it was thought it would be the first of many cash calls from companies to alleviate pressure on liquidity caused by falling cash flows and high interest rates.

But United Biscuits has so far stood alone. Apart from a few small rights issues, mainly from the oil sector, no others have come forward.

W German credit move postponed

From Peter Norman

Brussels, April 10

The turnaround on the foreign exchange markets with the dollar losing some of its recent gains against the Deutsche mark and other traditional hard currencies, is thought to have reduced the pressure on the central bank of the West German Federal Bank—the bank's top decision-making body—to take any action in the credit policy field at its specially called meeting in Frankfurt today.

Although German banking is having to cope with a liquidity shortage that is being alleviated only by stop-gap measures on the part of the federal bank, the council apparently decided to wait and see how events develop until it meets again next Thursday.

Foreign exchange markets had a mixed and uneven day yesterday, with the dollar staging a brief recovery before falling back in late trading. It ended the day slightly lower against most currencies, including sterling, which gained 92 points to close at \$2.1872. The pound's effective exchange rate rose by 0.3 percentage points to 72.4 per cent of its 1971 level.

Trading was reasonably brisk around the middle of the day but fell away in nervous trading in the late afternoon. The price of gold closed \$20 down at \$327.50 an ounce. Dealers noted the absence of the signs of panic about the future of the dollar which had been seen in the previous two days.

'Tied' car imports take 25 pc of UK market

By Edward Townsend

Almost one in every four new cars sold in the United Kingdom in the first three months of the year was imported from the European factories of the traditional big four British manufacturers: Ford, BL, Vauxhall and Talbot.

A year ago, these so-called "tied" imports accounted for 17.45 per cent of the total market but latest figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show the share to have risen to 23.82 per cent.

Ford's sales in the three months of cars from its West German, Belgian, Irish and Spanish plants totalled 85,844 and alone accounted for 17.3 per cent of the market, against 12.5 per cent a year earlier.

Many other foreign manufacturers have seen their United Kingdom market share decline in recent months including BMW, Datsun, Fiat and Saab, but the big increase in "tied" imports has boosted total import penetration for the first quarter to more than 57 per cent against 54 per cent a year ago.

Sales have been boosted by widespread discounting, including BL's Best of British campaign, but Ford stressed that its record first quarter market share of 32.4 per cent was achieved "without resorting to

the desperate marketing methods now in evidence". Sales in the three months totalled 502,713, a rise of 5.5 per cent on a year earlier, and in March alone were a record 197,722, an increase of 6 per cent.

The high level of "tied" imports, however, is having a depressing effect on car output in the United Kingdom. Department of Industry figures published yesterday show that first quarter production of 297,000 cars was 8.6 per cent lower than a year earlier.

The three-month share of sales was just under 19 per cent at 95,226, but in March the effects of the selective discounting lifted the penetration to a more respectable 23.74 per cent.

Mr Tony Ball, managing director of BL European and Overseas Operations, said yesterday: "What we have done publicly is only what is going on in every other car company. British and foreign. We are only making money. We expected some flak when our results started to pick up, and we can take it."

Ford, however, continues to top the sales league, having broken its own records every month this year. First quarter sales of 162,831 gave the company 32.39 per cent of the market against 26.63 per cent last year.

Carter threat to cut Mobil contracts

From Frank Vogl
US Economics Correspondent
Washington, April 10

Senior White House officials are considering formal sanctions against the Mobil Corporation for alleged violations of the administration's voluntary price guidelines. Mobil has said it believes such sanctions would be part of a political attack on the company by President Carter.

The White House is considering denying government contracts totalling more than \$5m to Mobil, which at the moment has about £145m defence department contracts on its books.

The issues raised reach beyond the technical aspects of

Mobil's alleged violations, important as these are.

Election year politics is involved, and there is the question of the ability of the White House to impose sanctions to support its wage and price guidelines.

President Carter said in a speech on March 26 that Mobil had violated the price guidelines by about \$45m. Then Mr Jody Powell, for the administration, stated that Mobil refused to cut petrol prices by three cents per gallon to "repay" overcharging to customers in 1979.

The company replied that it had never been asked to cut prices by three cents, nor had it been informed by the White

House about the alleged \$45m overcharge.

It appears that, in one quarter of 1979, Mobil did set prices above those allowed under the guidelines, even though in other quarters it set prices below the guideline ceilings.

Mobil argues that for the years as a whole it followed the guidelines, complaining that the White House never suggested compliance would be determined on a quarterly basis.

Mr William Tavoulareas, Mobil's president, sent a telegram to President Carter last week, saying that the council on wage and price stability had retroactively decided to change

the rules and impose a quarterly compliance standard.

Mobil claimed the council said "they would ignore the fact that we are in compliance for the full year . . . and charged us with being over the guidelines in the last quarter."

Mobil has no doubt about why it is "fence-strutted out for treatment. In an advertisement in The New York Times, the company suggests that the attack "may represent a continuation of political maneuvering at the expense of our company and our country."

alone, because of our policy of speaking out on energy issues, sometimes at variance with administration policy."

Engineering council rejects Finniston report

By Derek Harris

The Council of Engineering Institutions, most of whose functions would be transferred to a new statutory engineering authority if the Government accepts the proposals of the Finniston report on engineering, yesterday criticized the report and produced its own counter-proposals for reform.

This only served to demonstrate again the lack of agreement among professional engineers about the Finniston proposals.

The suggested engineering authority was described by the council as a "revolutionary leap in the dark", raising questions about so much power being entrusted to a government-created and funded body which would be open to the "shifting winds of political convenience".

Such an authority was likely to cost substantially more than £10m a year to run and the council's proposals offered a much cheaper alternative. The Finniston plan for a three-tier status structure, and the scrapping of the chartered engineers title which the council would like to keep, would only cause confusion.

Mr Percy Allaway, the council's new chairman, said there was agreement with the Finniston analysis of the ills of manufacturing engineering. But he added: "Many of Finniston's proposed remedies are irrelevant to the real problems and could make matters worse rather than better."

The council's counter-proposals accept the need for reform, but prefer evolution of the present system of control



Mr George Hislop, left, the retiring chairman of the CEI, with Mr Percy Allaway the new chairman, in London yesterday.

of the profession with more democracy. The council in its present form would be phased out in favour of a strengthened registration board and a new body, to be known as a society, as the profession's voice.

A small agency or possibly a single commissioner, to act as an engine of change for both

the profession and the whole industry is also suggested. response to the report even though its governing council, half of whose members are nominated by the member institutions, has approved the council's proposals.

Mr George Hislop, the retiring chairman of the council,

told Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, in a letter accompanying the council's proposals that there had been little time even for consultation. "Inevitably you will receive many separate responses from the engineering profession reflecting many shades of opinion. I hope you will not conclude from this that the profession is in disarray", he said.

There was in fact much common ground among the institutions, notably that the profession should remain self-regulating.

The latest manifestation of the institutions' search for an acceptable formula was last week's submission by the presidents of the four senior institutions—covering the disciplines of civil, mechanical, electrical and chemical engineering—which supported the idea of a single authority responsible to the Privy Council.

The council suggests that the Engineers Registration Board, at present part of the council should be developed as the Engineers Registration Council which would be the sole body for regulating the profession and for registration of engineers including those not belonging to an institution.

But crucially the institutions council envisages the new organization with a governing body which would be "widely representative" on the pattern of the General Medical Council of which the engineering body is freely elected. Whether such a system could be agreed for engineering is in question.

Eaton plans £18.5m investment

By Clifford Webb

Midlands Industrial Correspondent

The American-owned Eaton Corporation has ended months of speculation about the future of its fire-damaged Manchester commercial vehicle gearbox plant with an announcement that it is to invest £18.5m in the United Kingdom.

The Manchester plant was almost totally destroyed by fire in September, 1979. Overnight Eaton, the market leader in Europe, lost 40 per cent of its transmissions manufacturing capacity.

Mr John S. Rodewig, Eaton's European vice president in charge of truck components, told a press conference at his headquarters in Hounslow, Middlesex yesterday, that the decision to rebuild rather than relocate was partly because of the company's faith that the United Kingdom would continue to be a competitive location and partly to long-standing good relations with the Manchester labour force.

Anchor may have caused Thistle leak

By Nicholas Rist

Energy Correspondent

A dragging ship's anchor almost certainly caused a pipeline leak which has stopped production from the British National Oil Corporation's Thistle field, one of the largest oil discoveries in the North Sea.

A minisubmarine discovered the source of the leak around 100 yards from the Shetland platform, to which the pipeline is linked enroute to the mainland.

All platforms have a 500-yard safety zone around them, which general merchant shipping is forbidden to enter. The speculation must be that the tip in the pipe was caused by a supply or safety vessel visiting the Dunlin platform.

Pollution from this accident has been minimal, but the nature of the leak is bound to raise new questions of environmental safety procedures in the North Sea.

The rip will take some time to repair. As yet, BNOC cannot say how long, but it has already put into effect plans to put this oil into tanks. This system, used before the pipeline was ready, dealt with output levels close to the 120,000 barrels a day being produced before the weekend shutdown.

The first of two tankers, which BNOC has on charter ready to return to Thistle at short notice will arrive to take oil from the single arm loading mooring system next week.

Algerian brake on gas deliveries to France

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, April 10

Algeria has suspended deliveries of natural gas to France so far this month. The Algerian National Oil Company, Sonatrach, said that this suspension was due to "temporary technical difficulties".

Deliveries of Algerian gas were substantially reduced at the beginning of March, and from the middle of March, no liquefied gas tanker from Algeria had docked at a French port.

France imports 4.5 billion cubic metres of natural gas from Algeria, or 12.5 per cent of French requirements. The suspension of Algerian deliveries has already caused some difficulties. Gaz de France has had to stop supplies to companies which had subscribed to "suspendable contracts"—contracts which, in return for cheaper rates, could be suspended when the gas board decided accordingly.

Private consumers will not be affected because the winter is

over, and demand has fallen sharply. But some solution will have to be found before the end of the summer if France is not to go short of gas.

The technical reasons invoked by the sonatrach do not altogether carry conviction here. Some experts state that there have been problems at liquefaction plants.

But economic arguments may also play a part in shutting off supplies at a time when Gaz de France is involved in negotiations with Sonatrach on revised tariffs.

Negotiations with the American company El Paso have been suspended, and supplies to it interrupted since April 1.

In both cases, Sonatrach has been demanding a realignment of gas prices.

The Algerians have climbed down from their original demand and now insist on \$5 per million btu. But that is substantially more than world prices. Canada and Mexico sell gas by pipeline at the United States frontier at the price of \$4.47, equivalent to about \$3.60 in Algerian ports.

PRICE CHANGES

Stores	2p to 31p	Ferranti	20p to 485p
cd	7p to 77p	GRE	10p to 230p
33p to 67p		Ladbroke	5p to 155p
12p to 430p		Racal Eric	8p to 83p
8p to 85p		Starlette Eng	4p to 52p
18p to 35p		Killinghall	10p to 505p
8p to 121p		Rio Tinto Zinc	10p to 363p
5p to 475p		Selection Tst	14p to 616p
25p to 850p		Taylor Woodrow	8p to 343p
3p to 63p		Tricentrol	14p to 272p

THE POUND

Bank	Bank	Bank
buys	buys	buys
2.97	2.97	2.97
30.50	30.50	30.50
71.00	71.00	71.00
2.62	2.62	2.62
13.15	13.15	13.15
8.70	8.70	8.70
9.75	9.75	9.75
4.27	4.27	4.27
90.50	90.50	90.50
11.20	11.20	11.20
1.12	1.12	1.12
1390.00	1390.00	1390.00
570.00	570.00	570.00
Gld 4.66	Gld 4.66	Gld 4.66

Home is where T1-99/4 will sort out your problems

A computer for fireside chats

"Hello, I am the Texas Instruments home computer at its press conference in Fleet Street, London, yesterday. You can learn with me and I can help you with most of your problems. You can write on the screen in colour and we can play some games together."

The speech was silly, just like the computers that answer back on television programmes such as Wonder Woman and Blake's Seven. But the effect was considerable—not so much for the speech as for the colour animation and the electronic fanfares and music-hall flourishes with which the home computer's serious educational functions are embellished.

Let us instead consider the technological wonders of the Texas Instruments T1-99/4 home computer, which will cost you about £990 plus postage and packing. We are only making money. We expected some flak when our results started to pick up, and we can take it."

Ford, however, continues to top the sales league, having broken its own records every month this year. First quarter sales of 162,831 gave the company 32.39 per cent of the market against 26.63 per cent last year.

Kingdom—education, entertainment and personal finance. Hence the initial modules covered "Pre-school early learning fun" and "Beginning grammar" and "Number magic"; video games and video chess; and personal record-keeping and statistics.

The first module to use speech, "Early reading", will be available soon (it was demonstrated in prototype form yesterday). In the meantime, the computer will talk to you—but only if you programme it to do so. Texas has deliberately chosen a relatively powerful microcomputer which can be programmed by the skilled user, as well as enjoyed by the modellers by the very young or non-skilled user.

As the press conference ended the computer said: "Help! Is anyone out there? I am inside this computer."

This, Mr Lurch explained, was a joke.

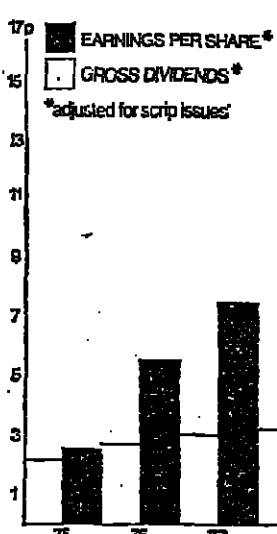
Kenneth Owen

BANRO CONSOLIDATED INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Profits increased to £1.156m
Dividend for year increased by 36.5%

"The activities of your Group were disrupted during the year by the road haulage and other disputes within the engineering and motor industries. In the circumstances, I consider the results were satisfactory."

Edward Rose - Chairman





EEC rules on Italian textiles ban

The European Community Commission said in Brussels yesterday that a Milan court's decision to block cheap synthetic fibre imports from the United States was illegal.

"It is a clear and manifest breach of community law", a spokesman said, adding that the Italian government had indicated it would take the appropriate steps to have the ruling overturned.

The court last week ordered a temporary injunction against imports of allegedly unfairly priced acrylic fibres shipped by American Cyanamid, and of polyester by the Carter Moore corporation. It said it would bar the products until the two companies raised their prices to make up for the supposed advantage they enjoy from cheaper feedstocks.

Toyota boosts car parts

Toyota Motor Company will almost double the value of its car part imports this year to 17,000m yen (£30.09m) from 9,000m last year, mainly from the United States and Britain.

Oil products prices fall

Consumer prices for the main products sold in the European Community weakened in the week ending 31 to their lowest levels since mid-December, the latest commission oil bulletin showed.

Ford buys in China

Ford Motor Company is buying parts in China for the first time to use in its European tractor plants. It has agreed to buy 5.2m of axle shafts-levers-drawbars-chain assemblies and manifold covers from the China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation.

Japan discount rate

Mr Minoru Nagasaki, Japan's vice-minister of finance, ruled out a further increase in the Bank of Japan's official discount rate from the record-equaling 9 per cent set last month.

Nuclear production up

Nuclear power plants generated almost 11 per cent of the electricity produced in the EEC last year compared with about 9 per cent in 1978, Belgium AIN led the EEC nuclear league.

Australian coal deal

A group of Japanese electric power companies and a trading house have reached a basic agreement with an Australian non-ferrous metal company on joint development of coal mines in Australia.

Government embarks on programme to shore up sagging economy

Another tough package for the Danes

Mr Anker Joergensen, the Danish Prime Minister, and his six-month-old Social Democratic minority government, have embarked on negotiations with five right and centre parties, headed by the Conservatives and Liberals, to secure a parliamentary majority for a new economic package.

The package, to shore up Denmark's sagging economy, was announced on Tuesday, and includes increases in taxation next year of 5,000m kroner (£34m) and public expenditure cuts of 8,000m kroner. If passed, the measures would mean a 5 per cent fall in real wages this year, offset by a reduction in the country's balance of payments deficit of 15,500m kroner in 1979, and this year's projected deficit of 16,300m kroner reduced to around 7,000m kroner by 1984.

An indication of the gravity of the Danish economic situation can be gleaned from a recent report by the government's economic secretariat, which predicted that the country's foreign debt would rise to 90,000m kroner in 1981, 24 per cent of the gross national product. Unemployment will leap from 6 per cent to 8 per cent, and inflation, now running at 9.5 per cent, will increase to 11.5 per cent.

A central element of the package is a new scheme to funnel capital from pension

funds and insurance companies (about £4,000m kroner a year over the next five years), into Danish industry. The increases in taxation will hit property and car owners and, if passed, a new state property tax will be instituted temporarily, electricity will go up by 12 per cent, and there will be steep rises in the price of heating, fuel and diesel oil.

The proposed increase in petrol prices would raise the cost of a litre up to 1.92 kroner, a 4 per cent rise on the present price. To compound the motorist's woes, a 25 per cent increase in the weight tax on cars is also proposed, while the tourist, seeking solace in warmer and less-expensive climates will be hit by a tax of 180 kroner a head on charter holidays.

The public expenditure cuts are designed to reduce the annual growth in public spending from a projected 4 per cent to about 1 per cent. This will in effect save 13,000m kroner in that period.

The severity of the cuts should be viewed against the fact that 1.7 million Danes or one in three of the population, is either passively employed in the public sector, or receiving an income from the government in the form of a pension or unemployment benefit. Only 800,000 are

actively employed in manufacturing, agriculture and fisheries.

The new economic proposals follow a 5 per cent devaluation of the krone last autumn, and a programme passed last Christmas limiting pay increases and freezing prices until 1981.

The latest package, nicknamed "Mr Joergensen's Easter egg", has been met largely with scepticism. Mr Thomas Nielsen, the powerful leader of the Danish trade union federation, summed up the feeling of many when he criticized it for putting too much emphasis on public spending cuts and too little on increasing production.

The leaders of the five centre right parties, whose support Mr Joergensen needs to get the package through parliament, have also expressed grave doubts as to the "digestibility" of the Social Democrats' belated Easter egg.

One thing is, however, certain. The package will have to undergo radical changes, if it is to have any chance of being accepted. The coming weeks will see hectic political manoeuvres, with yet another probably inconclusive general election likely for ballot-weary Denmark in May.

Christopher Follett

Minister calls for end to state dependence

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Dependence on the state by industry, institutions and individuals had to be ended, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Minister for Trade, told a European management forum in London yesterday. Limited help to companies was legitimate only in exceptional circumstances and if the aid was temporary.

More United Kingdom companies had gradually increased their dependence on government aid rather than profitability for survival, Mr Parkinson said. Such dependence had slowed change and resulted in Britain losing ground to all its industrial competitors, he added.

Mr Parkinson said: "State aid or protectionist measures work rather like a drug—once introduced into the industrial bloodstream they can quickly create dependence while dulling enterprise and competitiveness. Could the habit be kicked, he asked. "We have to create a revolution in attitudes and assumptions about inflation,

about realistic wage levels, about the growth of public spending and, most crucial of all, about the role of the state in our society."

"We have got to change the instinctive reflex in this country from 'What is the Government going to do about it?' to 'What can I do about it?'"

It had been suggested that Britain had to retreat into a state of emergency behind protectionist barriers, yet the volume of British exports had increased by more than a quarter in the last four years, Mr Parkinson said.

"This Government has no intention of giving in to the current protectionist clamour or to the search for scapegoats for our relative economic decline whether these be the European Community, Japan, or imports from the newly industrializing countries."

"All these are no more than an increasingly desperate attempt to evade the obvious truth that the real reasons for our problems lie not in others but ourselves."

Business appointments

BOC names its new financial director

Mr Richard Stein, chief executive, finance, BOC International, has become finance director of BOC the company responsible for the operations of the BOC international group in the United Kingdom and continental Europe.

Mr Christopher J. Hales, managing director of Coral Index, has been made an associate director of the parent company, Coral Leisure Group.

Mr David Durham has been appointed chairman of TI Tower Housewares in addition to his present position as managing director of TI Russell Hobbs.

Mr Marco Kapp has become director of systems research for Urwick Nexos.

Mr Thomas Cole has been made marketing director of Rumbelows, Viscoutt Allendale has been appointed chairman of the High Growth Park Company in succession to Lieutenant Colonel R. L. C. Taylor who has resigned.

Mr Penny Phillips has joined the board of Westward TV.

Mr J. A. Hermon has retired from all executive responsibilities with Initial Services, although retaining a non-executive director, and his place as group controller is now filled by Mr J. A. Griffiths.

Mr T. Baron has been re-elected as a director of Christian Salvesen and chairman and managing director of Christian Salvesen (Properties) after completing a period as special housing adviser to the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Mr Geoffrey S. A. Hunt and Mr Ronald J. Cox have joined the board of Executive Projects.

Mr Peter Carmichael has been made director and general manager of Britax (PMG).

Mr J. D. T. Kirk becomes a director of Parsons Brown and Newton.

Mr James White has joined the board of Buzul Pulp & Paper.

Mr Alan G. Kennedy has become chief executive of the Thomas Cook Group on the retirement of Mr T. E. Fisher.

Hopes of 'fresh start' for London docks

By Michael Bailey
Transport Correspondent

The Port of London Authority (PLA) could be heading for a significant step forward on productivity and surplus manpower as the Price Waterhouse report to Mr Norman Fowler, transport minister, was published yesterday.

With about one tenth of the port's workforce (800 out of 8,000) still surplus to requirements, the men are taking voluntary severance "thick and fast", the PLA said last night. Redundancy money of up to £8,500 a man is being paid with help from the Government's special £35m fund.

At a meeting on Wednesday, dockers overturned their earlier decision to block the movement of cargo out of the India and Millwall docks which the PLA announced last month it had finally decided to close.

"Now we have had to close the India and Millwall because of industrial action and lack of productivity progress, there could be a good chance of making

ing a fresh start", a spokesman for the authority said.

Further concessions by the unions are essential to the efficiency of the port, accountants Price Waterhouse say in their report.

"The nub of the PLA's present financial problem is a combination of unproductive use of manpower, and its inability to divest itself of manpower which is already surplus, even on the basis of present unproductive working practices", the report says.

Mr Fowler decided to publish it when he agreed last December to further limited financial aid for the PLA, which is included in the Port of London (Financial Assistance) Bill, due to receive its second reading next week.

Price Waterhouse support the transfer option of moving cargo to the "Royal" docks rather than the concentration option which the PLA had originally chosen before being forced last month to shut the India and Millwall.

BANK FIGURES

The following are the figures for eligible liabilities and reserve asset ratios of United Kingdom banks released by the Bank of England yesterday.

	Eligible liabilities	Rose over 3 months	Reserve ratio
1979	£500m	annual rate	
April	47,510	13.7	13.6
May	48,406	2.5	13.5
June	48,998	27.6	13.3
July	49,156	14.8	13.3
Aug	49,863	12.6	13.3
Sept	50,068	8.1	13.3
Oct	51,282	18.5	13.2
Nov	52,283	20.7	13.2
Dec	51,847	13.2	13.3
1980			
Jan	52,337	13.5	13.2
Feb	52,227	9.3	13.2
March	52,773	9.0	13.1

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Educating people to look for that label 'Made in the UK'

From the National President of the Federation of Clothing Designers and Executives

Sir, My federation executive have for some years now indicated their concern at the lack of a government policy for the clothing industry, which used to be number seven in the United Kingdom employment league. If we also consider the ancillary suppliers

industry, this, of course, increases considerably the labour force employed in clothing manufacture.

The following are reasons for the need to have a viable clothing/textile industry:

1. The high percentage of school leavers—girls and boys who, over the years, have found a happy, strike-free environment.
2. This "craft" labour-intensive industry does not require academic skills and therefore offers employment to those who are possibly "slow starters".
3. The sewing skills these girls and boys acquire fit them very well for their early married life when many of them will not even be able to buy the so-called "cheap imports".
4. The self-imposed disciplines of clothing operatives on a piece rate or bonus system helps produce good citizens.
5. This is one industry where the ex-factory price has not

kept pace with inflation.

6. The export performance will not be maintained without a firm home base for sales.

Amongst the reasons given against having an industry to clothe our own population are:

1. This is a third world industry—examine your clothing imports; you will be amazed at the quality.
2. Freedom of choice—I do not recall a freedom of choice of MPs from overseas; there must be many, cheaper, and possibly better. Anyone been offered government employees from the third world at their prices?

We are still fortunate that some of the leading multiples still believe in United Kingdom produced clothing, but even here there is an increasing amount of component parts being used from overseas when United Kingdom products are still available.

It has just come to my notice that the Ministry of Defence are now accepting German/Hungarian interlinings for our military uniforms. This could not have happened 10 years ago. It is our opinion that all "free issue" should be 100 per cent United Kingdom produced, inside and outside—after all, we are the ultimate purchasers of these garments.

As long as I can remember, we have lived with cheap im-

ports, but our forebears the common sense to know when they bought foreign Empire-made goods what suitable United Kingdom duct was available; they cutting their own throats.

The answer to our problem is simple—forget the Government and politics, let the TUC, give us a "Buy British" campaign meaning. We need to educate our people and reeducate our people support home produced goods from a box of matches to an aeroplane. If all union men and their families were to "Buy British", our balance of payments would be constant the black and if they put their obvious "muscle" persuading members, as do in picking their image would be improved night.

All we ask your reader to do is let his or her pur of garments (and any else for that matter) be IN THE UNITED KINGDOM. Yours faithfully, K. G. WILLIAMS, National President of the Federation of Clothing Designers and Executives, 38 Raydon Road, Barnet, Herts. April 8.

Problems for international companies dealing in the Brazilian market

From Mr Ivor Hall

Sir, You carried an advertisement in your April 3 issue which set out the benefits of trading with Brazil. There was much emphasis on buying from, and setting up industry with Brazilian companies.

As an exhibition stand designer, in May I visit Rio de Janeiro to manage the installation of a large stand for a client.

Brazil, unlike any other country I have dealt with, has a special requirement regarding all material and equipment entering the country. On despatch of goods from the United Kingdom, bank guarantees to five times the value of a consignment have to be lodged with the Brazilian customs authority some eight weeks prior to arrival on site in the case of seafreight.

If the goods are immediately shipped back after the exhibition it takes at least a further two months before the bank

guarantee is released. This whole exercise means that the Brazilian Government holds large funds of hard currency on deposit for a number of months, thus adding at least 10 per cent to the budget of anyone exhibiting in Brazil.

But this is not the end of the story—when advising clients exhibiting overseas I generally recommend that a United Kingdom based contractor builds the stand in a prefabricated form and carries out all the display work in this country, which he then ships abroad. Brazil, unlike all other countries I have worked in, has no simple facility for the destruction of the material content of an exhibition stand on site or in a bonded area nearby.

Instead the materials are left in bond for some months until finally destroyed. For example, the bank guarantee on an exhibition my clients attended last October has only just been released, adding 15 per cent to my clients' budget.

The Brazilian Government has been asked to change a system which is making it difficult and expensive for national companies to do business in Brazil, but it has no done so. If, as its advertisement suggests, it would more international trade must as a nation give over companies a fair chance trade with it.

Finally, I note the United Kingdom companies mentioned in the list of who have already set up manufacturing processes in Brazil. I wonder why our industries do not do as much and accept that if Brazil is in a position to buy our goods, they should help to set up manufacturing goods under licence for local consumption.

Yours faithfully, IVOR HALL, 34 Bisham Gardens, London N6 6DD. April 6.

Postal services—another aspect

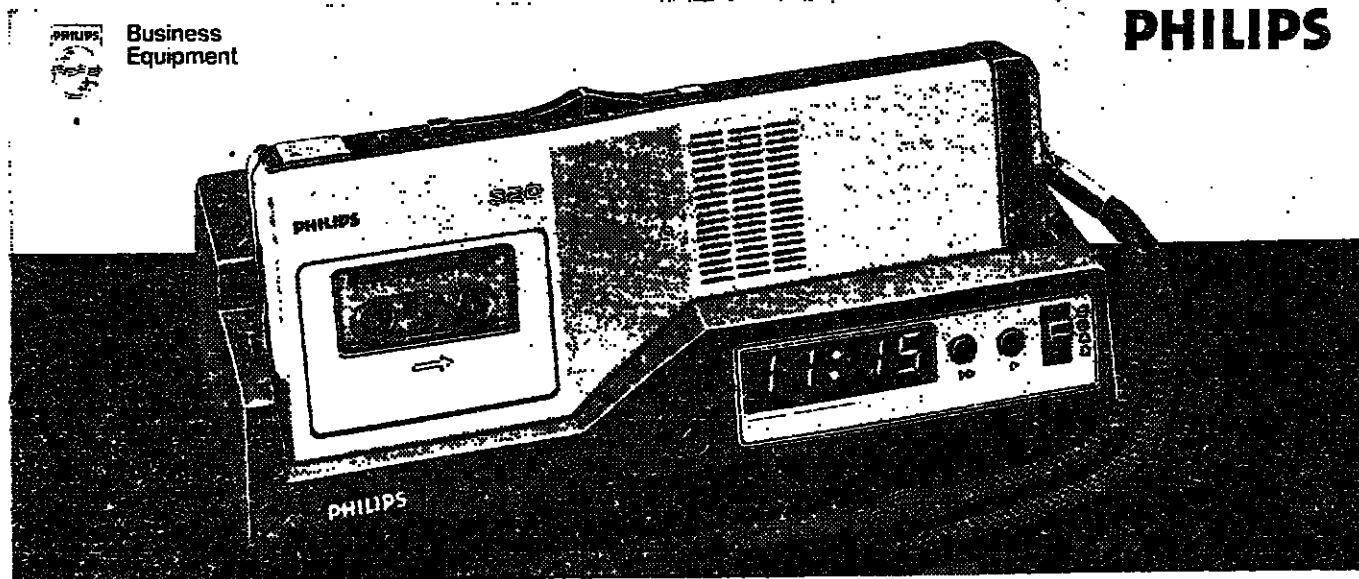
From Mr Arthur Cain

Sir, The report dealing with the postal services in London may well be justified in its criticism of management and trade unionism, but there is another side to this issue. It is the personal friendliness, help and efficiency

extended to members of the public by individual postmen, the personnel who serve in the post offices and those who deliver bulk post to offices.

These qualities are an important part of the London postal service and should be acknowledged at a time when the service is subject to such criticism.

Yours faithfully, ARTHUR CAIN, Flat 11, Grosvenor Court, Putney, London SW15 2AX. April 2.



For the desk bound. Or the outward bound.

No longer do you have to choose between a portable dictating machine and a desk top model.

Because the remarkable new Philips 320 does both jobs superbly.

So, it'll help you make the best use of your own time and your staff's.

For example, it's the first portable to offer the Philips Visual Mark & Find system.

This unique visual and acoustic cueing device allows you to pinpoint where letters begin and end, even to record special instructions.

Additionally, a quick glance at the Mini Cassette 2 tells you how much has been

recorded and helps you distribute work evenly among the available typists.

The 320 also has fast forward wind, fast rewind, fast tape erase and a microphone sensitivity switch that allows successful recording even in noisy surroundings.

You can purchase it on its own with a leather carrying pouch.

Or you can have it with the optional stand that features a digital clock with LED display, appointment reminder and automatic battery charger.

If you'd like to know more about the new 320, simply fill in the coupon below.

Simply years ahead.

Please send me more information about the Philips 320 Portable Dictating Machine and the Philips range of dictation equipment.

NAME _____

COMPANY _____ POSITION _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL. _____

To: Philips Business Equipment, Arundel Great Court, 5 Arundel Street, London WC2R 2DE

Trade Indemnity

Points from Mr. K. M. Bevins's statement to shareholders

RESULTS

The 1977 underwriting account, which was closed on 31st December, 1979, produced a record underwriting profit of £3,030,874. After adding investment income of £1,682,421 and charging taxation of £2,360,000, the net profit for the year was £2,353,295.

The recommended final dividend of 3.6p per share, together with the interim dividend of 4p (equivalent to 2p per share on the increased share capital), represents an increase over the previous year of 19.4%.

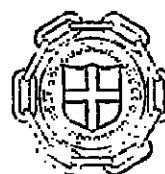
GENERAL

The total of transactions insured by the Company in the United Kingdom and overseas markets last year exceeded £10 billion for the first time ever, increasing by 12.2% to nearly £10.3 billion. The growth experienced in the United Kingdom of insured turnover and premium income was in the main attributable to two factors—price increases and new business obtained; the first of these was outside our control but the second was very much the product of our own efforts.

Throughout last year prices rose sharply, especially in the case of industrial raw materials, and our premium income increased accordingly. As the year proceeded the success of our earlier marketing efforts began to show. The Company finished 1979 with new business premiums of almost £1.9 million, which compared well with 1978's figure of £1.4 million and additionally the number of policies not renewed was lower than for many years.

The mounting effects of the credit squeeze will reduce liquidity, especially in the case of smaller businesses. There are very clear prospects, therefore, of falling orders and output, reduced profitability, increased illiquidity and rising insolvencies over a wide range of industry and commerce in this country. The message that emerges is clear. The need for credit insurance cover under these conditions is obvious and we shall be making every effort to satisfy it.

Copies of the Report and Accounts for 1979 are available from The Secretary, Trade Indemnity House, 12-34 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3AX.



Trade Indemnity Company Limited

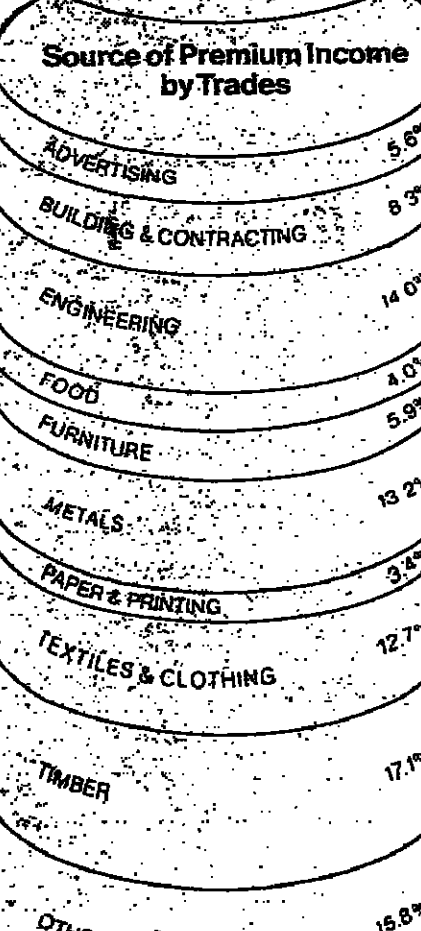
Underwriters of credit insurance since 1918

Branch Offices: Birmingham • Bradford • Bristol • Glasgow • Leicester • London • Manchester • Newcastle upon Tyne • Reading and at Melbourne and Sydney

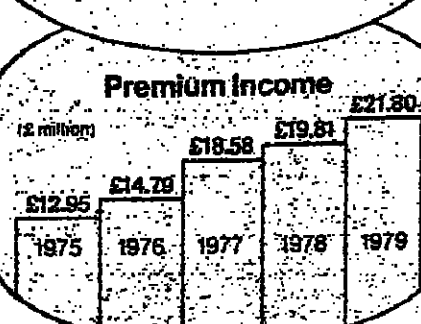
Highlights from the Accounts

	1978	1979
Premiums written	£218.0m	£19.81m
Profit after tax	£2.35m	£17m
Shareholders' Funds	£9.45m	£7.75m

Source of Premium Income by Trades



Premium Income



BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Implications of the banking figures

its market took heart from yesterday's figures. Prices picked up after they published, and some dealers now expect short-term rates will at long last come down.

Key supply figures give some basis of belief. The M3 figure is up by about 1 per cent in the first months of the new period, which runs to April 1981. Last October M3 has grown by 11 per cent on an annual basis, and since June the rate has slackened off to 9 per cent, which, if maintained for the full year, will be well within the government's range of between 7 and 11 per cent. There are, however, some complications.

Corset comes off and acceptance is switched into bank lending, the M3 to M3 could be up to two per cent; the other hand the surrender of certificates of deposit will work the other way.

That on an unadjusted basis is down by £133m, essentially because of the fall in lending to the manufacturing and consumer sectors, should be at with some caution. The adjusted figures for the banking sector as a whole are likely to show an increase. Companies (retailers) have been running down stocks; but once this is over the need—preferably long-term finance—to become more apparent.

De Zoete and Bevan think that in its financial requirements the sector is in as bad a predicament as it was in the 1974; one of the most years ever. Costs are rising, session is beginning to bite and will y as consumers withdraw more and the strong sterling exchange rate will make life any easier. The full implications of that on the market may still

gives a yield of over 12 per cent on the shares (up 9p to 139p), hardly looks like a last-ditch gesture, given that the payment would be more than twice covered by non-casino profits.

The current rating on the shares is not demanding. The p/e ratio—only 2.6 on stated earnings—would rise to less than 7 on fully-taxed non-casino earnings alone. And the property revaluation has lifted assets backing from 159p to 220p a share.

The crucial test has yet to come of course given that casino profits provided most of the running last year, although property performed strongly and racing overcame a first-half setback to log higher profits.

Assuming Ladbroke loses its last battle to save the London licences and turns its back completely on casinos, prospects generally look sturdy enough to hold current year profits below the £30m mark.

Thereafter, backed by a strong balance sheet, the group must look forward to a future as a steady and unexciting performer. This of course could be just the right image to cultivate as Ladbroke attempts to recover its shattered City image.

But it does not leave a great deal of scope for further upward re-rating in the short-term unless of course long-running rumours turn into reality.

Selection Trust, the smallest United Kingdom mining finance house, had the fortune to report its 1979 figures yesterday just when world recession began to get metal prices firmly in its grip. The market disliked the reminder that Selection Trust has ventures coming into revenue this year and next and that such revenue—a growing proportion of it from gold—will probably be hard to earn.

Meanwhile last year showed what the group can do when most things are going for it. Pre-tax profits rose from £19.5m to £26.4m, helped by Amax, the giant United States natural resources group which is to quadruple molybdenum capacity in the next five years.

Selection has 78.8 per cent of the Australian venture Seltrust (nickel, iron ore, copper, zinc, silver), and 34.3 per cent of Unisel in South Africa gold mining apart from the 8.3 per cent stake in Amax. Given its other interests, an ostensible net asset value of 730p a share is clearly conservative. But the same may be said of other United Kingdom houses.

Profits this year may rise to around £35m but an historic PoE of 14.3 at 616p looks high despite the gearing its new ventures give a mining finance house of this size.

Associated Biscuits Acquisitions paying off

On a day when United Biscuits announced that its rights issue had been 71 per cent subscribed, there was a faint flavour of disappointment to Associated Biscuits too. In this case, however, it was disappointment in the stock market, which turned up its nose at a mere 28.4 per cent advance at the pre-tax level, to £11.59m, and allowed the shares to slide by 2p to 79p.

Associated—fell well short of market expectations—were worth £12.5m-plus—and marginally short of its own, largely as a result of the strengthening pound (which knocked some £500,000 off export profits), weak trading conditions in Germany (where two factories have now been closed), and the lorry drivers' strike, which cost some £1.5m. That profits rose nevertheless can be attributed to the (unquantified) contribution from the end-78 acquisition, Smiths—which is in line with expectations.

However, Associated is sufficiently cheerful about its performance under difficult trading conditions to be considering further acquisitions, now that the last tranche is consolidated, and there is an end-in-sight to the reorganization programme now in hand.

The yield on the shares—8 per cent, after a handsome increase in the dividend—reflects continuing confidence in the strategy, though that could be tempered by the sight of the balance sheet, which will show borrowing substantially increased.

Washington
The telecommunications industry in the United States is ensnared in a mass of rules and regulations imposed by the government's Federal Communications Commission.

In theory private enterprise prevails and Americans all too often sneer at the nationalized telephone networks that thrive overseas. In practice, however, public authorities have sharply limited the freedom of America's private telephone companies.

American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT and T) and to a lesser extent General Telephone and Electronics Corporation (GTE) provide most of the standard telephone services to Americans and they are closely watched by the FCC, the anti-trust division of the Department of Justice and numerous other official bodies.

They have, to be sure, done very well in this regulated environment, but they say that they could do still better if there was less official supervision. Increasingly economists and leaders of consumer groups have reached a similar conclusion.

Now the FCC has also accepted the point of view. For 14 years it has wrestled with the question of how to regulate the industry, as the development of computer-linked communications systems became more important and brought into the picture other official bodies.

For some leaders of industry, helping to meet the needs of society in such areas as education, health, energy conservation, urban renewal, rural development and job creation has been a matter of occasional spare-time effort and judicious philanthropy. For many, it is irrelevant.

But for Mr William Norris, chairman and chief executive officer of Control Data Corporation of Minneapolis, it is the foundation of his company's entire business strategy. It has been so for the past 16 years or more and it has proved both relevant and profitable.

Mr Norris set up Control Data in 1957 to design and make large computers for scientific uses. The company is now a \$3,250m (about £1,500m) business embracing a wide range of computer-based products and services plus the financial services of Commercial Credit.

What is a high technology company like Control Data doing dabbling in education, health and other worthy social services?

Mr Norris says in Minneapolis he would use the word "holistic"; in his suite at the Savoy Hotel in London he explains that this means comprehensive, addressing the whole problem.

The major unmet needs of our society, but there has to be a match with maximizing profits for the corporation.

Henry Ford met a basic need, he points out, did the production of electricity and the telephone. But needs are inter-related now; simply to improve transport in isolation would not solve the present-day problems of rural America (or of urban Britain, for that matter).

Technology in general and computer technology in particular can help in addressing the overall task—and this holistic approach can give better, longer-lasting solutions than the various constituent problems.

If the Control Data approach is so clever, why has it not been adopted by many other companies in the United States? There is growing awareness in other companies, Mr Norris says, but the main pressure on most company executives—encouraged by conventional business-school teaching—is for short-term profit or "instant gratification".

A balance between short-term and long-term advantage should be sought, Mr Norris argues. And, if that is accepted, aiming to meet the basic needs of society will give a sounder basis

Will fewer bureaucrats mean better communications?

Frank Vogl

telecommunications business a host of computer companies. This week it made some important decisions on the front.

It decided, in what it termed a "final order" (itself is a controversial label), to split telecommunications into two distinct parts—all standard telephone line services and, secondly, so-called "enhanced services", the transmission and manipulation of data from (and between) computers to home and office terminals.

The commission decided that it could not sensibly sub-divide the enhanced service sector and that therefore the choice of creating whole sets of specific regulations for it or doing away with regulation entirely. It chose the latter course and its decision has been viewed by some commentators as breathtaking.

The FCC was swift to stress that in the interests of consumers it will continue to regulate the rates and management of standard telephone line services.

Having decided to deregulate enhanced services and thus the sale and servicing of all sophisticated telephone machinery, the FCC decided to go one step further and deregulate the marketing of basic telephone equipment as well. Until now, for example, it was possible only to rear an ordinary telephone from A.T. and T., not buy one outright.

Control Data's Mr William Norris: "the best opportunities are derived from addressing society's major needs".

Technology When business means solving social problems

Control Data's Mr William Norris: "the best opportunities are derived from addressing society's major needs".

for the long-term future of a company than any amount of short-term market research. His dismissal of the conventional dependence on market research is total.

"Control Data's primary business strategy," Mr Norris reaffirms, "is based on the premise that the best business opportunities, in the long run, are derived from addressing the societal needs in cooperation with the Government and other sectors".

Education is one example. Control Data Institute's vocational schools in North America, Europe and Australia train large numbers of computer operators, programmers and engineers, but the parent company's education interests are much broader than this.

Here the "real need" is to improve the quality, consistency and productivity of education generally. Control Data's solution, developed over many years in association with public authorities in the United States, is a computer-based learning system known as Plato, designed to enable individuals to study a wide range of subjects, advancing through the course at their own pace.

Health care is a second example. For general use, Control Data has developed comprehensive health screening procedures and a computer-based information system which enables individuals to assess their own state of health.

A special exercise in health care focused on the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, the home of 6,000 Sioux Indians. Many of them live up to 150 miles from the one small hospital, with little transport available.

A mobile clinic is used to provide regular health services for 10 communities on the reservation, and Control Data has implemented a programme to improve health care generally on the site. The lessons learnt will be applied in similar systems (marketable ones) for other isolated rural areas, decaying inner cities and developing countries.

Energy—including conservation and alternative sources—is a third area in which Control Data is active. Energy analyses for buildings and assessments of the potential for solar energy systems are offered via the company's on-line computing services network. "Earth-sheltered" buildings—partly covered in earth as if moving back towards cave dwellings—are being evaluated for their insulating and energy conserving qualities.

Control Data's involvement in the improvement of inner city areas began with the setting up of factories to provide jobs in depressed areas of Minneapolis. It has developed into City Venture Corporation, a collaborative project with other business and professional organizations and churches to apply a range of technologies, from both the physical and social sciences, to revitalize existing urban areas.

Mr Norris, the pragmatic idealist, brings it all down to earth succinctly: "Willie Sutton, the famous bank robber, and I share a common philosophy," he remarks. "When he was asked 'Why do you rob banks?' he answered 'Because that's where the money is'."

Control Data's Mr William Norris: "the best opportunities are derived from addressing society's major needs".

The products of the Encyclopaedia Britannica in Chicago are having problems getting their feet in people's doors these days. And they blame the American government's Federal Trade Commission.

The commission took steps in 1976 to stop encyclopaedia salesmen from entering people's homes before fully explaining their aims.

The FTC demanded that each Britannica salesman should present a card as soon as a prospective consumer's front door was opened—not an ordinary card, but one measuring three inches by five and stating boldly the purpose of this representative's call is to solicit the sale of encyclopaedia.

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David Hewson

equipment so low that it drives competitors out of business. But the Justice Department may have a different view, as may some of AT and T's competitors. One Justice Department spokesman noted that no decision has yet been taken about contesting the FCC finding in the courts, but this is an option that is under consideration.

Mr Brown fully acknowledges the controversial aspect of the FCC decision on this crucial point. He says: "I would welcome congressional confirmation—or modification—of any aspect of our decision, particularly our construction of the 1956 consent decree. Without such confirmation, full implementation of our decision may be delayed by years of litigation."

Mr James Quehno, another FCC commissioner, stresses that "the 'final order' is anything but final". AT and T, GTE, numerous industry executives and government officials all appear to take the same view. They accept that the decisions are important, but say that their consequences are far from certain.

But at least the FCC has now fallen into line with a growing number of United States governmental authorities and come to accept that less regulation may be better for the economy as a whole.

and create new, innovative cities.

City Venture markets its services to communities and to State and Federal agencies. Education, training and new jobs come together with other elements in the holistic approach.

Similarly, Rural Venture is a collaborative project aimed at stimulating the creation of more small farms and food processing units. Large-scale agriculture has created big problems: technology is available to make small farms more successful, reducing the cost of food and increasing the number of jobs. Education and training, information services and detailed harvest forecasts based on large computer models are among the other elements of this programme.

One could list further examples of the "real needs" to which Mr Norris and his company are responding—the need to encourage small innovative businesses; to tackle unemployment; and to make the transfer of technology easier across business and national boundaries.

Underpinning many of these enterprises is the power of large computer-based information and teaching systems. They link the basic knowledge industry of the future with the needs of today.

Mr Norris, the pragmatic idealist, brings it all down to earth succinctly: "Willie Sutton, the famous bank robber, and I share a common philosophy," he remarks. "When he was asked 'Why do you rob banks?' he answered 'Because that's where the money is'."

Kenneth Owen

GRAMPIAN HOLDINGS

Preliminary Results for the year ended 31 December 1979.

GRAMPIANHOLDINGS LIMITED announced profits (subject to audit) before tax for the year ended 31 December 1979 of £1,930,000 (1978 £1,675,000). The Directors propose a final dividend of 12.0% (3.00 pence per share) giving with the interim a total of 18.0% (4.50 pence per share).

	1979	1978
Turnover	8000	8000
	63,423	66,520
Group profits before tax:		
INDUSTRIAL SERVICES	1,460	1,007
CONSUMER GOODS	865	1,030
	2,325	2,037
Parent company expenses including bank and debenture interest not otherwise allocated	354	343
	1,971	1,694
Share of loss of associated company	41	19
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	1,930	1,675
Taxation on profits of the year	191	151
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION	1,739	1,524
Add:		
Exceptional deferred taxation adjustment	—	800
Profit after taxation and exceptional item	1,739	2,324
Add (Deduct):		
Amounts applicable to periods prior to acquisition and minority interests	(28)	67
	1,711	2,391
Extraordinary items (Note 1)	221	909
	1,490	1,482
Dividends:		
Preference paid of 4.9%	69	69
Ordinary interim paid of 6.0% (1978 — 6.0%)	152	152
Ordinary final proposed of 12.0% (1978 — 11.83%)	305	300
	526	521
RETAINED PROFITS (Note 2)	964	961
	1,490	1,482
Earnings per share (Note 3)	16.17p	14.99p

NOTE 1. Extraordinary items: Closure costs £302,000, net of tax relief, less extraordinary recoveries £81,000.

NOTE 2. The comparative figures have been restated for a prior year stock valuation adjustment which has reduced 1978 retained profit by £50,000.

NOTE 3. Earnings per share for 1978 is stated excluding the exceptional deferred taxation adjustment.

The Chairman, Mr David C. Greig, comments: "Group profits have increased by 15%. This is a positive advance against a background of the road haulage strike and the engineering dispute, both of which have had adverse effects."

GRAMPIAN HOLDINGS LIMITED
Stag House, Castlebank Street, Glasgow G11 6DY.

Business Diary: Lord Mayor's China • BR's doodler

Gadsden, Lord Mayor of London, is preparing to venture into the world of business. He is thought to be taking a break from his duties as Lord Mayor, and a couple of for company off to extol the virtues of his institutions.

He will be having talks on the role the London can play in China development. Sir Gadsden, Lord Mayor of London, is preparing to venture into the world of business. He is thought to be taking a break from his duties as Lord Mayor, and a couple of for company off to extol the virtues of his institutions.

Seagram, the world's largest distilling concern, has broken the ice which has hitherto existed in Britain between the drinks and industry and charities trying to treat and prevent alcoholism.

All the proceeds from Seagram's latest venture in sports sponsorship—a seven-nation cycling event—will go to ACCEPT, an organization formed in America in 1975.

ACCEPT, pointedly, does not preach total abstinence, as do Alcoholics Anonymous and other older groups, but demands moderation in drink. This is a pretty neat way for Seagram to meet what it calls its social obligation to help those who suffer from the abuse of alcohol.

Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, penned this portrait of yellow guest Michael Foot during yesterday's jollifications to celebrate the railway union Aslef's 100th birthday. But Ray Buckton, Aslef's general secretary, who was also the subject of a Parker quick-fire sketch, need not be worried that the BR boss was bored during the Albert Hall proceedings.

"I doodle all the time, but only when I am interested," Parker told Business Diary. "My life is deep in doodles." Buckton, the man who instilled into British industrial life the phrase "I don't know how I can keep my lids back," has an intriguing comment by the side of his portrait in Parker's official guide to the event.

It is said, Parker says from a story told to him by TUC deputy general secretary Norman Gifford, that according to Willis there was once a railroad so



joined for his success at growing tomatoes that he was approached by the railway staff and asked to reveal his secret in print.

The horticulturalist duly obliged and began his article with the words: "Parker has set down in his programme: 'Go down to the stores and get 100 pounds of signalling wire...'"

Despite the Diary's fears of yesterday, the Post Office has failed to sink that stalwart body the Association of British Chambers of Commerce.

The ABCC moved premises earlier this year and the Post Office exchange has ever since inexplicably referred callers to a number at the Welsh Office.

"We've complained continually but without much success," the ABCC said yesterday. The association will be pursuing the matter further through its member on the Post Office Users' National Council.

But it appears that the Diary's ire has worked. Callers are now being intercepted and given the correct number.

Percy Allaway, the electronics engineer who is chairman of EMI Electronics, now part of Thorn Electrical, admits there is more than a touch of irony about his latest appointment as the new chairman of the Council of Engineering Institutions (CEI).

CEI is the umbrella body for the chartered institutions which the Finistron report on the engineering profession has suggested should be formally replaced by a new statutory engineering authority.

But even if Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, does not adopt the Finistron suggestions, Allaway yesterday himself set forward the likely finish of CEI as such.

His first job as chairman was to announce the CEI's alternative proposals to Finistron that would replace the CEI with what unkinders critics have dubbed a three-headed monster.

The CEI can no longer be a body of Engineers' Registration Board, a new society that would speak for the profession, and for a Whitehall-based commissioner to prod for change in the engineering profession and industry, was produced by a CEI committee of which Allaway is chairman.

Allaway explains that change is needed but they should be evolutionary rather than the sort of revolution the Finistron report had in mind. Given the time it often takes to achieve some sort of consensus among professional engineers, Allaway might still see out his chairman's year if the CEI can leave as the real casualty the new CEI vice-chairman and chairman-elect for 1981, Bryan Hildrew, a marine engineer who is chairman of Lloyd's Register.

The products of the Encyclopaedia Britannica in Chicago are having problems getting their feet in people's doors these days. And they blame the American government's Federal Trade Commission.

The commission took steps in 1976 to stop encyclopaedia salesmen from entering people's homes before fully explaining their aims.

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David Hewson

An important announcement to our stockholders:

Copies of the 1979 Annual Report of Citicorp can now be obtained from:

Citibank, N.A., 336 Strand, London WC2R 1HB, between the hours of 9.30am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Postal applications should be addressed for the attention of the Librarian.

CITIBANK CITICORP

EDGAR ALLEN, BALFOUR LIMITED

Notice is hereby given of the appointment of Lloyds Bank Limited as Registrar.

All documents for registration and correspondence should in future be sent to the address below:

G. R. WOOLSEY
Secretary



Lloyds Bank Limited,
Registrars Department,
Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing, West Sussex BN12 6DA.
Telephone: Worthing 502541
(STD code 0903)

Lloyds Bank Limited

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Bank figures sustain progress

The publication of the banking figures yesterday afternoon was just enough to sustain the small advance made by equities in the morning.

With the three-week Budget account drawing to a close, and persistent rumours of a new issue today, there were more sellers in evidence than buyers. A large batch of company results also provided the market with interest, and contrasting movements.

Gilt-edged after the bank lending figures were favourably received by the market, having seen a firm morning which started £3 better for long-dated issues. But the improvement did not last, as dealers were waiting to see if today would produce a new cap. Longs closed £3 up on the day, having been £2 better, although the

morning had been quieter after early buying.

The FT Index, which had risen by 2.8 to 433.9 at the end of the first hour of trading, closed 0.5 up at 431.8.

Most of the blue chip stocks finished the day unchanged, with the exception of Glaxo whose results are due on Monday. Market rumour suggested that there were parcels of between 50 and 100,000 shares available, although most of the jobs appeared to be buyers.

In the event, Glaxo finished 4p down at 244p. There were also buyers for Courtalds, whose results are due in May, but the price closed unchanged at 66p. ICI and Beecham were static at 370p and 116p respectively as were Dunlop at 35p and Unilever at 396p. Fisons gained 2p to 269p.

Of the 30 companies which reported figures, many were unchanged. Amora showed one of the sharpest moves, gaining 8p to 56p with its better-than-expected results, while Burton Group lost 8p after presenting disappointing interim profits.

Ladbroke gained 9p to 139p, after results in line with market expectations while Taylor Woodrow lost 8p to 343p after a disappointing 2 per cent profits improvement. Associated Biscuits dipped 2p after slightly disappointing results, while Bowater at 172p was unchanged.

The shares in Coral Leisure, now 73p, could jump sharply next Wednesday—if by then magistrates have approved the renewal of the casino licences. There have been no formal objections so far.

There was considerable demand for electricals, and Decca 'A' added 28p to 568p and the ordinary 33p to 678p. Ferranti put on 20p to 485p. Rascal gained 8p to 233p but GEC at 368p and Thorn at 208p improved by just 1p. Diploma showed a 12p rise to 430p.

Speculative interest surrounded old bid favourite ERF, which rose 8p to 85p and takeover suggestions continued to

circulate around Amalgamated Power, which added 6p to 78p and Montague L. Meyer which was up by 2p to 105p.

The absence of a bid for Guthrie from Sime Darby, which is now permissible under takeover code rules, pushed the share price down 25p to 850p, while Furness Withy, whose offer from Mr C. Y. Tung could still be referred to the Monopolies Commission, was unchanged at 368p.

Investment buying also helped Babcock International to add 3p to 97p, while a profits warning from Empire Stores on Wednesday forced the price down 6p to 142p.

The oil sector was knocked by the BP chairman's warning on profits, which pushed the share price down 18p to 358p. Other stocks followed suit with Shell losing 10p to 338p, and the Thistle Field, problems continued to affect Tricentral which fell 14p to 272p and Burmah, which lost 7p to 206p. Ultramar finished 2p down at 534p during an active day's trading.

The second-line stocks were quieter, with Selbens losing 10p to 627p, although there was some interest in newcomer Berkeley Exploration which gained 2p to 115p in a day when its parent KCA International produced results showing that the Mud subsidiary had pulled profits down sharply. KCA was unchanged at 60p.

Buildings were also popular, with Blue Circle Industries, whose results are due later this month, rising 8p to 300p and WBR Industries gaining 5p to 182p.

Australian metals drifted down with a disappointing drilling report affecting Ashton which lost 18c to 116½c. CRA which fell 12c to 244c and Northern Mining which dipped 14c to 108c.

Gold shares reflected the drop in the bullion price which was down \$20 at \$527.5 in the afternoon. Anglo American Gold was down \$1 to \$74 while West Driefontein retreated \$2 to \$67. Cons Gold lost 8p to 473p and RTZ fell back 10p to 363p.

Equity turnover for April 9 was £70.333m (number of bargains 11,362). The most active stocks according to Exchange Telegraph were Burmah, Shell, Tricentral, BP, Ladbroke, Dalgrey, Midland, ICI, BTR, Beecham, GEC and Rascal.

Burton Group fails to meet forecasts

By Bryan Appleyard

Burton Group's reputation as the stock to ride the retail recession suffered a blow yesterday when it unveiled interim profits only £100,000 ahead of £93m.

At the trading level the increase was £1.5m to £11.8m but, after taking out loan stock redemption surpluses, sales of properties and exchange gains on the convertible loan stock, the increase is more like £900,000 to £11m. Interest charges took £2.4m from that figure against £1.1m last time.

The market had been going for around £10m at the price level and the shares reacted by dropping 8p to 121p.

The two chief problems were Oxford Street and manufacturing. The former suffered with the rest of London retailers while the latter saw the loss of £750,000 of Temporary Employment

Subsidy as well as rising costs.

Elsewhere the group have held its own against problems of the retail. The newly acquired Perkins chain, which had about £20m to the sales increase to £118m, in profits of perhaps £1m.

The Burton shops that were the star performers continued to benefit from the modernization. With 120 stores out of 170 to be modernized, from this area should, for another year or so, be encouraging.

The board are now forecasting, though annual now, revising full-year down to around £17m. The interim dividend gross

Engineering strike costs Automotive Products £

The engineering strike cost Automotive Products more than £3m in lost profit and explains the fall in pretax profits from £15.1m to £12.6m in the year to December 28 on sales up to a tenth to £197m.

However, the year's gross dividend has been doubled to 4.54p and the shares gained 2p to 76p where the yield is 5.8 per cent.

The group had a smaller tax charge in 1979, and a £5.7m write-back of deferred tax compared with £3.83m in 1978. There was also a £4.91m extraordinary credit representing the profit on an insurance claim over the book value of assets destroyed in a fire. This left

retained profits at £11.95m to £16.7m.

The home market original equipment parts was 1979, but the group, stable, is gaining in

although margins were in 1980 Automotive, continuing to res. A £15m new factory, filter division, which the firm is planning. The overseas programme in France, America will strengthen original equipment overseas, where pros said to be excellent demand for replacement throughout the world to grow.

Small advance at Cosal

By Our Financial Staff

Exceptional provisions, losses on discontinued businesses and a 78 per cent rise in interest charges to £1.14m trimmed Cosal's profits growth in 1979.

Pretax profits rose by 7 per cent to £1.71m on sales ahead from £29.5m to £34.8m.

The discontinued businesses, mirror manufacture and Air Wales, cost the group £200,000. Provisions of £455,000 above the line were against a bad debt and an aircraft contract that

turned sour.

The group's two main lines, ship's chandlery and vans, both had a good increased trading profit.

Borrowings rose 18 to £6.5m, or 75 per share, and the group plans a £1.5m reduction when profits are increased. The year's gross dividend has been raised by half to 4.54p. The shares yield, cent and the p/e is 2.2

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Alva Int (F)	—	0.22(0.18)	9.35(7.68)	5.07(4.18)	30/5	9.1(7.37)
Agasacum (F)	27.96(20.92)	2.9(2.1)	6.05(4.79)	1.67(0.77)	4/6	2.05(1.7)
Automotive (F)	196.6(179.4)	12.6(15.1)	1.67(0.77)	3.17(1.52)	—	24.5(17.9)
Armitage Bros (F)	8.63(7.26)	0.61(0.57)	153(109)	24.5(17.9)	—	6.34(5.15)
Assoc Biscuit (F)	349(217)	11.59(9.0)	11.4(10.6)	4.61(4.61)	1/7	6.16(6.16)
Aurora (F)	103.4(66.6)	3.8(3.8)	10.08(10.33)	2.35(2.08)	23/5	3.5(3.09)
Bifurcated Eng (F)	14.81(1.3)	1.41(1.58)	—	0.5(0.54)	2/5	6.0(6.0)
Bristol Stadium (F)	0.55(0.6)	0.047(0.048)	—	1.0(0.637)	—	1.5(1.0)
Brian's Tea (F)	1.53(1.71)	0.59(0.73)	18.0(17.4)	4.0(4.0)	—	3.5(3.5)
Bonstead (F)	37.0(28.27)	0.027(0.022)	0.2(0.194)	3.0(—)	—	16.4(15.73)
Chapman Race (F)	0.41(0.33)	0.027(0.022)	—	2.0(1.28)	3/6	2.4(2.4)
Cosalt (F)	1.72(1.564)	91.3(90.0)	33.1(26.6)	7.25(6.77)	7/7	3.5(2.8)
RFC (F)	199.7(174.3)	4.03(7.05)	4.9(13.2)	2.0(1.28)	28/5	9.07(6.87)
Comit (F)	—	1.71(1.6)	12.7(14.3)	3.0(—)	23/5	4.5(4.5)
Burton Group (I)	118.0(181.24)	9.34(9.23)	—	2.0(1.5)	28/5	1.5(0.871)
Christies Int (F)	24.84(20.1)	6.2(5.62)	15.28(14.32)	4.25(3.25)	28/5	4.5(1.0)
Finlay Pack (F)	6.03(5.57)	0.61(0.52)	5.8(9.96)	1.1(0.38)	—	3.66(2.23)
Brown & J (F)	390.5(289.0)	4.88(1.31)	41.3(27.5)	5.96(4.89)	2/7	11.5(7.82)
Cenit & J (F)	11.38(10.02)	1.1(1.04)	—	1.8(1.44)	28/5	4.08(3.91)
Gen & Comm Int (F)	—	0.77(0.63)	9.34(7.14)	5.2(4.27)	27/5	1.71(1.41)
Gen Investors (F)	—	1.73(1.38)	6.74(5.26)	2.5(0.7)	23/5	2.1(1.5)
Grampian Hldgs (F)	63.4(60.5)	1.9(1.6)	16.17(14.99)	3.0(2.8)	—	1.5(0.871)
Green's Econ (F)	21.02(17.03)	1.07(1.26)	10.7(13.1)	0.95(0.55)	—	4.5(1.0)
Hewlett-Packard (F)	—	8.53(8.24)	11.65(8.52)	2.5(0.7)	—	11.5(7.82)
KCA Int (F)	18.86(19.14)	2.67(2.74)	4.6(7.1)	2.5(0.7)	—	4.08(3.91)
Lead Inds (F)	63.4(60.5)	1.9(1.6)	16.17(14.99)	3.0(2.8)	—	1.71(1.41)
Ladbroke (F)	579(469)	49.2(41.5)	52.48(41.53)	6.05(4.02)	2/7	2.1(1.5)
LWT (Hldgs) (I)	34.38(30.99)	1.97(3.34)	—	4.08(3.91)	—	2.5(2.5)
Minet (F)	33(32.4)	8.47(15.28)	9.17(16.26)	1.71(1.41)	—	13.3(8.78)
Myson (F)	17.4(16.5)	2.2(2.3)	12.82(6.7)	2.1(1.5)	2/7	2.0(1.44)
Selection Tst (F)	319.8(207.7)	26.4(19.8)	43.0(38.8)	14(10.8)	—	4.0(4.0)
Sapra Group (F)	9.18(6.33)	1.02(0.76)	7.19(6.38)	1.25(0.94)	27/5	13.3(8.78)
St Sykes (F)	20.87(19.36)	0.25(1.36)	1.8(11.5)	2.5(2.5)	—	16.3(16.3)
Sydney W (F)	438(393)	24.6(24.0)	36.9(46.6)	10.2(6.48)	—	—
Tibury Cont (F)	56.89(45.25)	0.68(2.49)	17.28(16.64)	16.3(16.3)	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pre tax and earnings are net. *—Dividends are shown gross. †—Adjusted for scrip issue. ‡—Loss. §—Figures for both years are brokerage income.

Stockbrokers to merge

London stockbroker Kent, East, Newton, which was formed only two and a half years ago, is to merge with the Birmingham firm Margets & Addenbrooke.

Yesterday's announcement was the culmination of four months of talks and both parties emphasized that the amalgamation, on April 28, did not signal retrenchment.

"We are coming together from positions of strength and from a common attitude to business," said Mr William Hands, who will be senior partner of the enlarged firm, Margets & Addenbrooke, East, Newton.

The merger will generate cost savings but no redundancies. The total staff, excluding partners and associate members, will be 30.

Trade Development Bank Holding S.A.

Highlights of the Year

For our Group, 1979 was a successful year. Earnings rose significantly, due largely to careful cost and credit control, well-balanced assets and liabilities and the deployment by Group banks of their special skills in export finance, foreign exchange, precious metals and banknotes.

The Group increased to US\$ 40 million the issue of 25-year fixed rate notes in the domestic US market and issued US\$ 40 million floating rate notes in the international capital market. The proceeds of these issues were used to finance a 5% addition (from 60% to 65%) to our stake in Republic New York Corporation, the holding company for Republic National Bank of New York, and to increase the capital of Group banks.

Republic National Bank of New York had risen to over US\$ 500 million and it had become the 41st bank in the USA ranked by deposits. Republic New York Corporation increased its quarterly dividend from US\$ 0.50 to US\$ 0.63 per share.

The geographical expansion of the last two years has been rewarded rapidly as our new banking subsidiary in Uruguay and Republic's new branches in Hong Kong and Chile are already contributing to profits.

In view of the excellent results and the encouraging start to 1980, the Board is recommending an increased dividend of US\$ 0.75 per share, compared with US\$ 0.65 per share for 1978.

EDMOND J. SAFRA
Chairman

By 31st December, 1979, stockholders' equity of

24th March, 1980

Consolidated Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1979

Assets	31st December 1979	31st December 1978	Liabilities	31st December 1979	31st December 1978
US\$ 000	US\$ 000	US\$ 000	US\$ 000	US\$ 000	US\$ 000
Cash, balances and advances to banks	1,657,004	1,307,196	Deposits, balances due to customers and inter reserves	6,213,466	4,611,794
Bank certificates of deposit	556,375	407,930	Other liabilities	222,685	170,381
Precious metals	425,137	615,259		6,436,149	4,782,175
Trading account securities	140,358	144,132	Capital and loan funds:		
Financial paper	1,872,732	1,702,405	Sinking Fund Notes 2002-2003	60,000	30,000
Investment account securities	562,390	486,727	Sinking Fund Debentures 2001	50,000	50,000
Customer current accounts and advances	1,090,395	922,569	Sinking Fund Debentures 2002	35,000	35,000
Investments	42,347	5,109	Floating Rate Notes 1986	40,000	—
Fixed assets	66,591	62,355	Other loans	39,435	47,873
Other assets	201,701	100,620	Minority interests	107,435	108,854
			Shareholders' funds:		
			Share capital	24,620	24,605
			Reserves	228,529	194,683
			Total shareholders' funds	253,149	219,288
			Total capital and loan funds employed	585,019	490,015
				7,021,168	5,272,190
			Contingent liabilities:		
			Letters of credit and guarantees	362,429	195,897

* Adjusted to basis of forward sales of US\$ 206,381,000 in 1979 and US\$ 161,861,000 in 1978.

For the year ended 31st December

Net earnings after taxes, minority interests and transfer to inter reserves (US\$ 000)

Earnings per share

Number of shares outstanding

1979 1978

US\$ 2.70 US\$ 2.05

16,413,300 16,403,300

Principal Subsidiaries

Trade Development Bank, Geneva • Republic National Bank of New York, New York
Other affiliates and offices in: Beirut, Bogota, Buenos Aires, Caracas, Chisao, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, London, Luxembourg, Mexico City, Miami, Montevideo, Nassau, Panama, Paris, Rio de Janeiro, Santiago de Chile, São Paulo, Tokyo.

Progress at Associated Biscuits

- TRADING PROFIT UP 48%
- PROFIT BEFORE TAX UP 29%
- PROFIT AFTER TAX UP 40%
- DIVIDEND UP 26%

A summary of the Statement by the Chairman
The Hon. Gordon W. N. Palmer on the results for the year ended 31st December, 1979.

THE RESULTS. 1979 was a year of progress and consolidation, following the acquisitions of 1978. Good results from the Snack Food Division—appearing in the figures for the first time—contributed largely to the 48% increase in trading profit from £9.7m to £14.3m. Turnover rose by 61%, from £217m to £349m.

DIVIDEND. A final dividend of 12.2% brings the 1979 total to 22.2% (1978, 17.65%), fulfilling the intention expressed at the time of the Rights Issue of December 1978.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES. Despite the pressures of inflation, plans for 1980 indicate that UK resources should be adequate to meet operational needs. This is

helped by the low level of tax to be borne due to the high level of capital allowances and stock appreciation relief.

THE FUTURE. "I believe that the re-balancing of the Group, with less dependence on the UK biscuit market, a larger presence in North America and Europe, and a substantial stake in the snack food market, will enable us to continue to grow both in turnover and profits. We have set ourselves some ambitious targets for 1980, and unless we are overwhelmed by events beyond our control I see no reason why these targets should not be achieved."

Results in brief

	1979	1978
Year ended 31st December	£000's	£000's
Group sales	349,091	216,918
Profit before tax	11,591	9,001
Profit after tax	8,025	5,713
Dividend	4.44p	3.53p

Copies of the 1979 Report and Accounts, containing the full Statement by the Chairman may be had on request from the Secretary.
The Associated Biscuit Manufacturers Limited, 121 Kings Road, Reading RG1 3DE.

The Associated Biscuit Manufacturers Limited



HUNTLEY & PALMERS

JACOB

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DAD'S

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FINANCIAL NEWS

Woodrow appoints market

Woodrow's shares fell lower at 343p yesterday following disappointing results for the year ended December 31. The company, which had a turnover of £18m, reported a profit of £1.8m, a 17 per cent increase on the previous year's profit of £1.5m.

The company's turnover was 11 per cent higher at £18m, but both profits and losses were down by £100,000, but local currencies over the year were down, despite a rise in the pound and reduced losses in the United States.

Industries

Industries reported a 10.3m for 1979 against 1978. The company's turnover was 11 per cent higher at £18m, but both profits and losses were down by £100,000, but local currencies over the year were down, despite a rise in the pound and reduced losses in the United States.

Bank Base Rates

Bank of England	17%
Bank of Ireland	17%
Bank of Scotland	17%
Bank of Wales	17%
Bank of Cyprus	17%
Bank of Greece	17%
Bank of Italy	17%
Bank of France	17%
Bank of Germany	17%
Bank of Japan	17%
Bank of the Netherlands	17%
Bank of Belgium	17%
Bank of Luxembourg	17%
Bank of Switzerland	17%
Bank of Austria	17%
Bank of Spain	17%
Bank of Portugal	17%
Bank of Greece	17%
Bank of Italy	17%
Bank of France	17%
Bank of Germany	17%
Bank of Japan	17%
Bank of the Netherlands	17%
Bank of Belgium	17%
Bank of Luxembourg	17%
Bank of Switzerland	17%
Bank of Austria	17%
Bank of Spain	17%
Bank of Portugal	17%

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

Over-the-Counter Market

Company	Price	Chg	Gross Div	Yld %	P/E
Almington Group	62	+2	6.7	10.8	*3.7
Armstrong & Rhodes	28	+2	3.8	13.6	*1.8
Baird HHI	263	+3	13.8	5.2	*7.7
County Cars-Pref	80	—	15.3	19.1	—
Deborah Ord	98	—	5.0	5.1	10.8
Frank Horsell	107	+1	12.8	12.9	*4.5
Frederick Parker	99	+1	12.8	12.9	*4.5
George Blain	107	—	15.3	19.1	—
Jackson Group	69	—	5.2	7.5	*4.1
James Burroughs	114	—	7.2	6.3	10.0
Robert Jenkins	272	-3	31.3	11.5	*8.7
Torrey Limited	222	—	14.3	6.4	*5.8
Twisslock Ord	15	—	0.8	5.6	*2.9
Twisslock 12% ULS	80	—	12.0	15.0	—
Unilock Holdings	48	-1	2.6	5.4	10.2
Unilock Holdings New	48	-1	2.6	5.4	10.4
Walter Alexander	97	-2	4.4	4.5	6.4
W. S. Yeates	186	—	12.1	6.5	*3.0

Prices prepared under provision of SSAP15

Kode International Limited

	1979	1978
OVER	£8,502,708	£7,522,731
AX PROFIT	1,253,158	1,250,171
INGS PER SHARE	17.42p	23.75p
DIVIDEND	6.58p	5.247p

was maintained and our investment programme was maintained despite the external problems which have had to come during the year.

mediate prospects must be clouded by the uncertain economic climate, but investment decisions are made with a view to the longer term and we have sufficient finance in the company's future, reinforced by an increase in the order book compared with this time last year, to maintain investment policies and ensure further growth.

Dennis Tudor, Chairman.

KODE LIMITED
Manufacturers and distributors of computer peripheral equipment, printers of graphic equipment and systems for the computer industry.

KODE SERVICES LIMITED
Leasing, rental and maintenance facilities and material for computer equipment.

KODE REED & CO. LIMITED
Manufacturers of electronic-mechanical and electronic devices.

KAM CIRCUITS LIMITED
Producers and designers of printed circuit boards.

Kode International Limited
43 BATH ROAD, SWINDON, WILTSHIRE

of the report and accounts can be obtained by writing to the Company Secretary.

Profits slump at Minet Holdings

By Richard Allen

Insurance Correspondent

Two decades of profits growth came to a halt for Minet Holdings last year.

The insurance broker revealed yesterday that profits fell 45 per cent to £8.5m as the group was hit by exchange rate movements and fierce competition in United States markets.

The figures follow a stream of disappointing results from the sector, but Minet was harder hit because of its specialisation in liability business, particularly professional indemnity.

In this field premium rates and commissions have been driven down by as much as 30 per cent, reflecting competition among underwriters keen to take advantage of soaring interest rates.

BPC sees pretax profits fall by £3m

By Our Financial Staff

BPC suffered a £3m fall in profits to £4m in the year to December 31. Turnover rose from £174.3m to £199.7m.

At the trading level the profits fell from £11.06m to £8.4m. But interest charges up from £3.7m to £5.2m took their toll of the pretax figure.

A breakdown at the trading level shows printing profits up from £5m to £5.25m, packaging down from £2.5m to £1.5m and publishing down from £3.5m to £2.6m.

The advance in printing was achieved in spite of losses during the transport strike and the non-publication of the Sunday Times colour supplement. Both problems hit Sun Printers which lost £1.75m on the year.

In packaging, the fall is explained by heavy start-up costs on two new factories and

As a result, Minet's brokerage income rose only 2 per cent to £3m, while expenses soared 24 per cent to £30m for a ratio of 91 per cent. The rise in expenses was due partly to special factors, including the consolidation of an American associate. Minet claims underlying growth was more like 16 per cent.

Profits were further depressed by a special provision amounting to £1.39m taken above the tax line.

Although it foresees little hope of recovery in insurance markets this year, Minet claims it could be set for a "substantial" profits growth in 1981.

In the meantime, the dividend has been raised 20 per cent with a final of 2.45p gross, taking the total to 6.38p gross. The payment is twice covered by declared earnings of 9.17p gross.

The setback left Minet's shares unchanged last night at 58p. They have been buoyed in recent months by buying in American group Corroon & Black and by market hopes of a full-scale bid.

Corroon has said that it intends to build a 20 per cent stake before discussing a premium pooling plan with Minet. Its stake now is 13 per cent.

Minet's figures include an extraordinary gain of just over £3m from the disposal of the group's holding in an American leading United States broker group, Fred S. James.

This reflects the final unwinding of the close association that existed between the two groups before Minet formed its alliance with Corroon.

But he does say that substantial capital investment in 1979 should pay off when trading conditions improve.

Below the line exchange losses of £1.46m leave profits at the attributable level down from £4.2m to £2.74m, and preference and ordinary dividends have to be paid with the aid of a transfer from reserves of £319,000 against a transfer to reserves last time of £2.8m. The total dividends for the year have been maintained at 5p gross.

Cray Electronics: As expected, independent directors of Cray, together with their advisers, strongly recommend shareholders to reject offer by Taborcorp Trust. Cray directors own 17.1 per cent of shares and will not accept. Cray board will in due course recommend a final dividend of 2.04p gross, making 2.85p (2.65p).

Mergers cleared: Following mergers are not being referred to Monopolies Mergers Commission: Ato Chemie SA and Sterling Therapeutics; Harlequin Group and Henderson Kenton; Trafalgar House and Focus 21 Developments; Graduate Electronic and Garrard Engineering; to reorganise Meyer and Van Riessen Beheer BV; Waring & Gillow (Holdings) and Maple; Guthrie Corporation and City & International Trust; J. H. Hargrett & Son and W. & E. Turner; Ames Roadstone Corporation and Spollen Concrete; and Taggart Construction.

Arguscentum and Associated Companies: Turnover for year to January 31, £22.96m (£20.92m). Pretax profits, £1.5m (£1.1m). Chairman reports that profits are in line with the forecast. Total dividend raised from 2.46p to 2.59p gross.

Burmah Oil: Denshek Campbell, member of Burmah Group has finalised sale to China for casting was handling plant and equipment totalling £135,000 in its first deal with China.

Armstrong Brothers: Turnover 1979 £8.63m (£7.26m). Pretax profit £1.1m (£0.8m). Dividend 15p (10p). Dividend 24.5p (17.97p). Dividend 35p gross (26.8p).

City of London Brewery & Investment Trust: Third interim 0.88p for year to June 30, 1980, payable on May 30.

Royce Group: Turnover for 1979, £17.39m (£16.05m). Pretax profit, £5.2m (£2.8m). Dividend is 5p gross (3.65p). Good start has been made to current year's business.

Castlehead: Turnover for 1979, £11.88m (£10.02m). Pretax profits, £1.1m (£1.04m). Total gross dividend effectively raised from 2.4p to 4p.

Tilbury Contracting Group: Turnover for 1979, £56.85m (£45.25m). Pretax profit, £22.0m (£18.0m) against profit of £2.49m last time, after provision for Nigerian indebtedness of £2.02m (nil). Total payment, gross, 31.8p (22.35p).

Voeper: Group now experiencing a difficult time. Unless compensation problem is settled within next few months, prospects for current year are not good. However, chairman is confident that group has support.

Drilling Tools North Sea: Mr Charles Noble, chairman, has circulated "E" ordinary shareholders regarding offer on behalf of Dawson for shares in group. Negotiations with another party are continuing, and board hopes to make an announcement shortly. Meanwhile, shareholders strongly advised to make no action.

Fisons: 1979 annual report shows pretax profits under the headline style current cost accounting reduced to £5.4m from £17.3m under historic cost conventions. Current cost profits after tax were £1.3m and this compares with the £1.1m cost of dividends in 1979.

De La Rue and Sun Chemical Corporation of United States have agreed for De La Rue subsidiary, Crossfield Electronics, to become directly responsible for sales and service of Crossfield Magnascan colour scanners in the United States of America and Canada.

Johnson Matthey has acquired Star-Link Chains of Fleet, Hampshire, manufacturers of jewellery chain and findings.

Grampian recovery continues

By Our Financial Staff

Grampian Holdings, the Scottish-based transport to sports-gear group, has continued its recovery and yesterday reported a 16 per cent profit rise to £1.9m on a turnover 5 per cent lower at £63.4m.

The figure is still some way from the record profit of £2.3m achieved in 1973, but last year saw the end of a four-year reorganisation which halved the number of companies in the group to around 10 and saw off most of the unwanted loss-makers.

Transport, where Grampian invested £2m last year, provided the bulk of profits for industrial services—up £400,000 to £1.4m—despite losing £350,000 on the transport strike.

Gross total dividend is barely changed at 6.428p with a 4.285p final.

Strike trims LWT to £2m.

By Our Financial Staff

LWT (Holdings), the parent company of London Weekend Television, saw profits fall from £3.44m to £1.98m in the 26 weeks to January 27.

Profits before the exchequer levy were down from £7m to £4m. Turnover rose from £31m to £34.4m.

John Freeman, the chairman, reports that the damage was largely done by the 11-week strike that shut down ITV. But he says the group has now fully recovered.

Freeman, the publishing subsidiary, turned in a poor performance due to the depressed trading conditions in publishing. One bright spot was a strong maiden contribution from travel agents, Page & Moy.

The interim dividend is 5.34p gross compared with 5.6p last time. This absorbs £660,000 of the attributable profit of £811,000.

The company is considering introducing an employee profit-sharing scheme taking advantage of the tax concessions in the 1978 Finance Act and the proposals in the last Budget.

The scheme is expected to be put to shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting immediately after the annual meeting.

But Mr Briscoe stressed that BW Mud's "encouraging

Aurora suffers first fall since 1972

By Philip Robinson

Fast-expanding Sheffield steel and engineering group Aurora Holdings, which spent £25.15m on two major acquisitions in two years — has suffered its first profits setback since 1972. Mr Robert Atkinson, the chairman, yesterday reported earnings down from £4.3m to £3.8m on a turnover, 55 per cent up at £103m.

The group are paying an unchanged gross dividend of 8.8p. The figures topped stock market hopes, and the share recovered from Wednesday's fall to be a shade better at 56p.

Once again the bulk of profits came from Aurora's traditional engineering companies, Edgar Allen Balfour, which the group bought last summer, made a loss of £220,000, and some parts of that group continued in the red this year.

Aurora has already closed two of BAF's sites with the loss of 400 jobs costing £800,000, which will be financed by sales of those sites. There are also plans to telescope production of an existing seven sites into two.

Last year's transport and engineering strike cost the group around £1 in lost profits, and interest charges are up from £1.5m to £3.7m.

The dividend is boosted from 1.5p to 6.42p.

But Mr Briscoe stressed that BW Mud's "encouraging

turnaround" at the end of last year had continued into the current year and that the company has opened new offices and warehouses in Venezuela and South East Asia.

The balance sheet has also been helped by a sale of land for £235,000.

The dividend is boosted from 1.5p to 6.42p.

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Ladies Pride High Quality Fashionwear

Group Results Year ended 20th November 1979

	1979	1978
Group Turnover	7,978	6,439
Group Profit before taxation	1,128	1,009
after taxation	602	476
Export Turnover	1,985	1,529
Earnings per share	8.90p	7.10p*
Final Dividend per share	2.00p	1.01p*
Total Dividend per share	3.40p	1.80p*

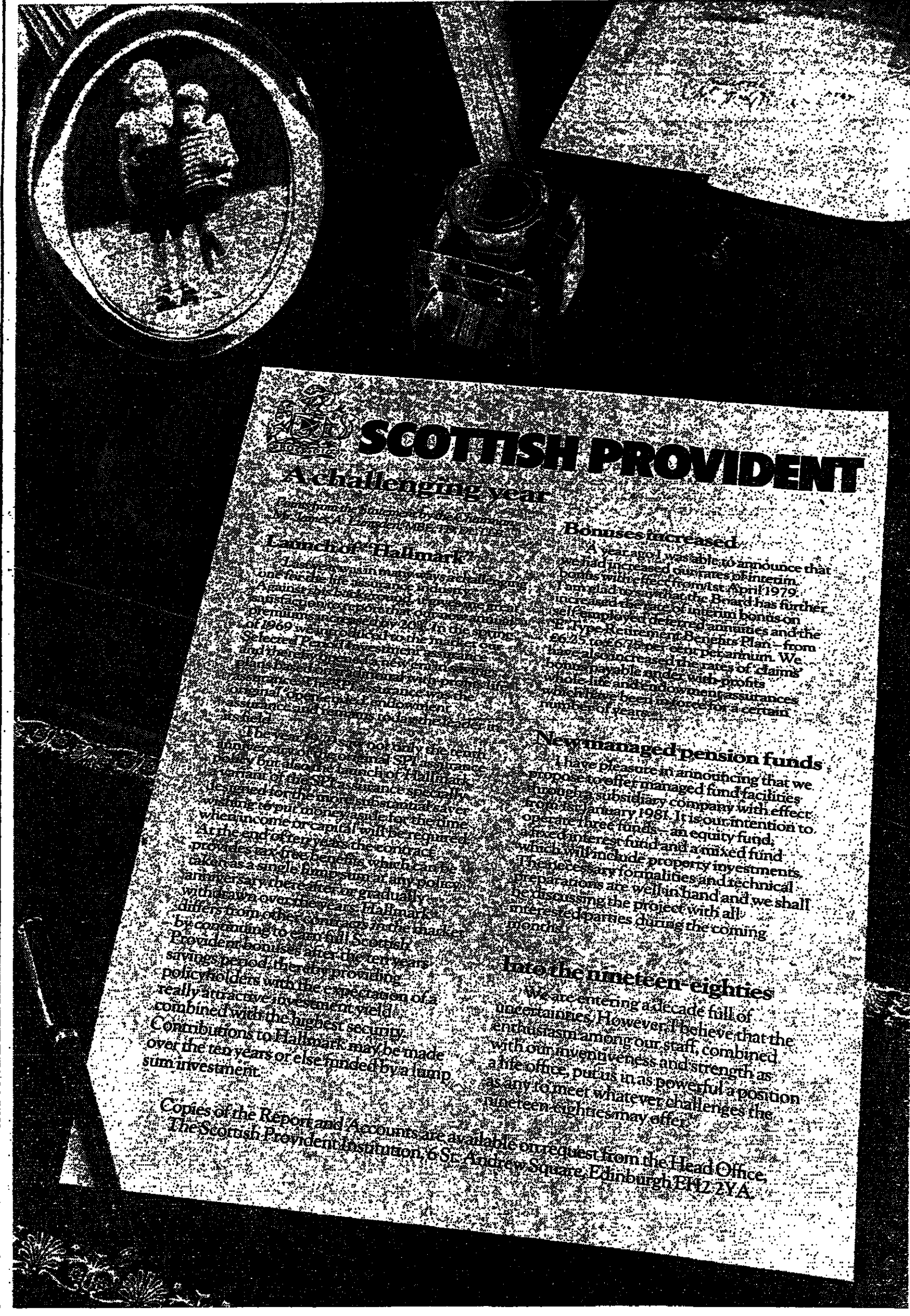
* Adjusted for 1979 Scrip Issue.

● Record performance in Turnover & Profits.
● Dividend for year increased by 89%.
● Scrip Issue of one for five recommended.
● All manufacturing units fully booked for Spring/Summer season.

The economic future is obscure but we remain confident that so long as there is a market for well styled quality outerwear at value prices we can expect to prosper.

F. A. Robson
Chairman.

Ladies Pride Outerwear Limited



SCOTTISH PROVIDENT

A challenging year

Launch of "Hallmark" insurance policy

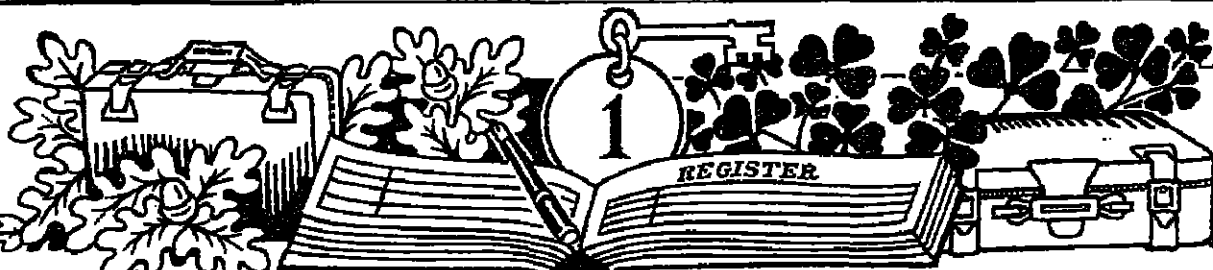
Bonuses increased

New managed pension funds

Into the nineteen-eighties

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available on request from the Head Office, The Scottish Provident Institution, 6 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH4 2VA.

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West Country



ITH DEVON

an 18th-century small Country House Hotel with country-style bedrooms and the sea. In a friendly atmosphere, why for a brochure? **WDALE HOTEL**, Garsington, South Brent, Devon, Tel. 03925 482.

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East Anglia

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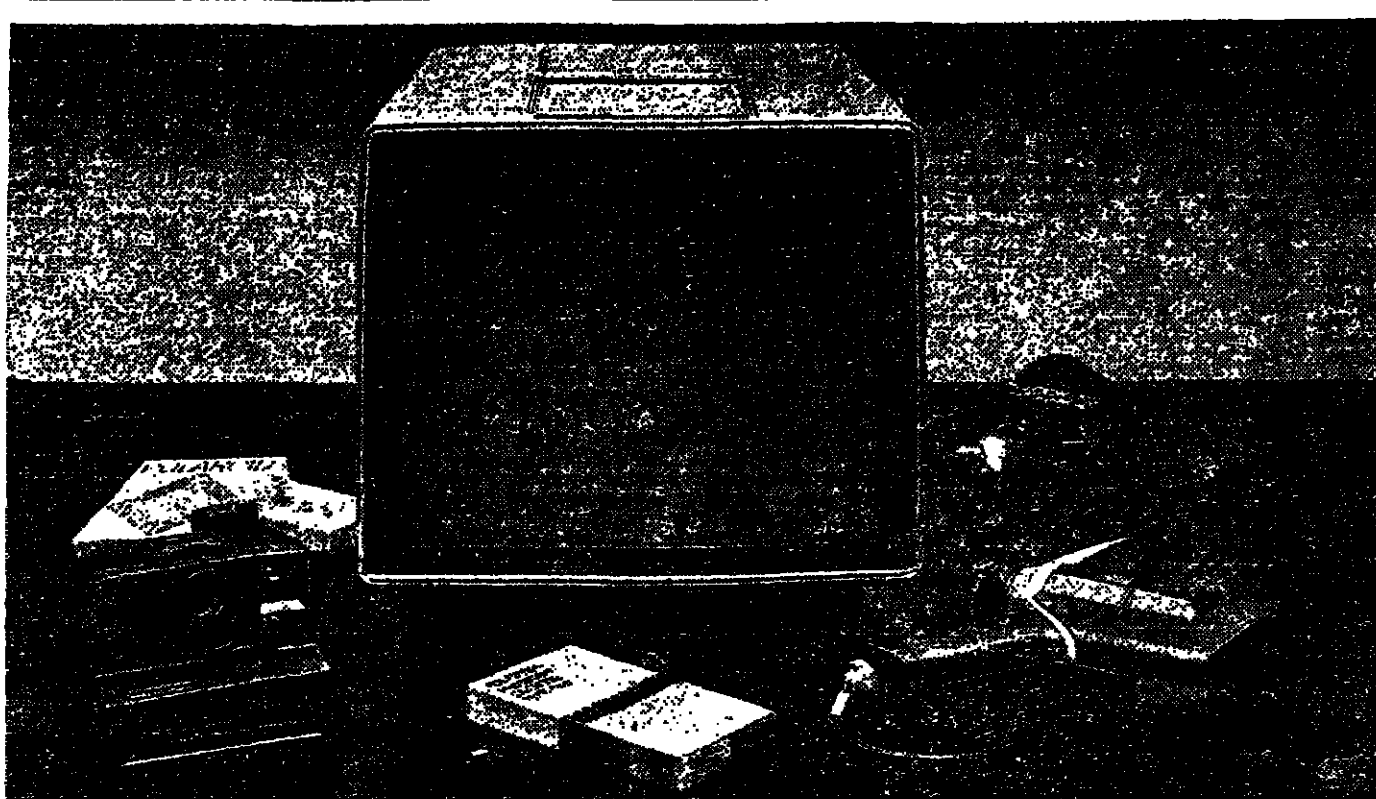
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Win this Polavision Camera and you're an instant film star.

First prize of this year's Summer Holiday Competition will be a complete Polavision movie outfit. The latest development from Polaroid.

Which, as its name suggests, gives instant moving pictures.

Simply shoot your movie with the hand-held camera, load the exposed film cassette into the player, wait just ninety seconds and then sit down and enjoy the show. No screens to set up. No projector to thread.

Just imagine, you could show a wedding at the reception, relive Christmas Day on Boxing Day or even watch your holiday films while you're still on holiday.

The possibilities are endless.

And things are looking good for the runners up. Every week, for three months, we'll be giving away a Polasonic Auto Focus 5000 which produces instant colour photographs and guarantees perfect sharpness.

And for three other lucky losers there'll be a pair of 'Lookers by Polaroid' Sunglasses.

HOW TO ENTER

First, read through the holiday columns and find the answers to these three simple questions.

- 1 A paradise for Loch fishermen?
- 2 From which century is the cosy cottage on the Heritage Coast?
- 3 How many can sleep at the Western End of the Brecon Beacons?

*Prizes supplied by Unilever.

Now imagine that you are an exhausted Robinson Crusoe shortly after arrival on Desert Island.

Is the place all you had hoped for?

Admittedly it's scorching hot, secluded and the native is friendly. But don't the amenities leave something to be desired? Hotel not even partially constructed, night life a shade dull and the possibility of romance exceedingly remote.

All in all it doesn't add up to much of a holiday. So write a letter of complaint (max. 100 words) to the travel agency that has organised your stay there.

But beware. They're also responsible for your return and too harsh a criticism could leave you stranded. Best to make light of the matter. Humour them.

Then send us your letter. We must receive it by next Wednesday. So don't put it in a bottle, post it directly to The Times Summer Holiday Competition, New Printing House Square, Grays Inn Road, London WC1.

At the end of the competition all the winning entries will be judged again and the author of the most entertaining letter will receive the Polavision Movie outfit.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. Employees of The Times Newspapers Limited and their families may not apply.
2. The decision of the judges is final.

THE TIMES UK Holidays Competition.

Wales	Wales	Wales	Wales	South Coast
CARMAUN RAY. — Charming farmhouse, 3/4 acre, 20 acres, year. Brochure 021 539 2249.	ST. DAVID'S, Dyfed. — B. & E.M. 3000 ft. garden, 2000 ft. garden, 2000 ft. garden. Tel. 01453 884.	PORTHACOD. — mod. harbour flat. 2000 ft. garden, 2000 ft. garden. Tel. 01453 884.	HERIOT'S view of Richmond, N. York. — 2000 ft. garden, 2000 ft. garden. Tel. 01453 884.	NEW FOREST. — New Park Hotel, 2000 ft. garden, 2000 ft. garden. Tel. 01453 884.

Appointments Vacant

A well-known Japanese manufacturing company with a wide product range of electronic cash register systems requires a capable full-time GENERAL AGENT to build up sales organizations.

ly qualified is should apply to: Box 1051 F, The Times.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF WALES

LAW

LECTURER

(Company/Commercial Law preferred)

Salary: £5,052-£10,484

Requests (quoting Ref. T) for details and application form to Personnel Section (Academic), UWIST, Cardiff CF1 3NU.

Closing date: 2 May 1980

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Dundee

LECTURESHIP IN LAW

Applications are invited for a permanent Lectureship in Law in the Private Law Department of the Faculty of Law. The successful candidate will be expected to undertake teaching and research in the field of Private Law. The post will be attractive to a candidate with a high degree of academic achievement and a proven ability to undertake research in the field of Private Law. The post will be attractive to a candidate with a high degree of academic achievement and a proven ability to undertake research in the field of Private Law.

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments

NON-SECRETARIAL

TELEPHONE SALES PERSON

To work for small, dynamic, public relations company. Must be a confident, energetic, self-starter. Salary and perks to be discussed. Interview.

SECRETARIAL

RECEPTIONIST/TELEPHONIST

20-25 years exp. for Receptionist/Telephonist. Must be a confident, energetic, self-starter. Salary and perks to be discussed. Interview.

PART-TIME VACANCIES

Architects seek SECRETARY/P.A.

pleasant office in City. 1000 ft. garden, 2000 ft. garden. Tel. 01453 884.

TEMPORARY SECRETARIES

A temporary secretary for a busy office. Must be a confident, energetic, self-starter. Salary and perks to be discussed. Interview.

SECRETARIAL

BOND ST. Fine Art Dealers require a Secretary

pleasant office in City. 1000 ft. garden, 2000 ft. garden. Tel. 01453 884.

LA CREME DE LA CREME

pleasant office in City. 1000 ft. garden, 2000 ft. garden. Tel. 01453 884.

VIQUE OPPORTUNITY OCCURS IN ELLE AND FIORUCCI

Wanted, highly creative designer to create the finest window displays and also to play an active role in the corporate identity of the group. Salary and fringe benefits by arrangement.

Please reply in writing to: The Managing Director ELLE & FIORUCCI 6 Wandsworth Road, London S.W.8.

GENERAL VACANCIES

RESIDENTIAL NEGOTIATORS

We are looking for two keen and energetic negotiators for our Fulham and Holland Park offices. Salary negotiable. Contact Sarah.

JACKSON-STOPS & STAFF

1000 ft. garden, 2000 ft. garden. Tel. 01453 884.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

